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OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1868-70

Colonies

General

13

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

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REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1867.

PART I.—WEST INDIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1869.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1869.

23321.

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PART I.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN PETER GRANT, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 248.)

MY LORD DUKE, King's House, Jamaica, October 24, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867, together with my report on it.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) J. P. GRANT.

Legislation.

Forty-five laws were passed in the course of the year 1867. Of these the most important are the following:—

Law 5 of 1867. A law to abolish the Surrey County Gaol.

The county gaols are prisons for debtors, and persons sentenced to imprisonment without labour, and the maintenance of two such prisons, either of which was capable of accommodating the prisoners confined in both, and each having an expensive establishment, one in Kingston and the other in Spanish Town, not more than thirteen miles apart, and connected by railway, was an unnecessary expense.

The Spanish Town Gaol was retained as the gaol for both counties, and the Surrey County Gaol at Kingston has been made good use of as a constabulary station and for other purposes.

By this arrangement a saving of 700*l.* a year has been effected.

Law 6 of 1867. A law to establish Boards of Health.

Since 1855 no general law prescribing sanitary regulations in towns here has been in force. That want has been supplied by this law.

The Governor is empowered to appoint a Central Board of Health. The municipal boards of the several parishes are constituted local boards of health, subordinate to the Central Board, with power to appoint local commissioners of health and inspectors of nuisances, and to abate nuisances.

The Central Board appointed under this law is composed of the principal medical officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy, the Medical Superintendent of the Public Hospital, the Inspector General of Constabulary, and Dr. Campbell, one of the principal physicians in Kingston.

Law 7 of 1867. A law to declare in what manner land on which the quit rents and land tax have not been paid shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

This law has not yet been acted upon, as it will require some amendment.

Law 8 of 1867. A law to organize a constabulary force.

This law was passed in consequence of the inefficiency of the old police of the Island.

The old police consisted of 12 inspectors, 41 sergeants, and 365 privates. It was distributed amongst the several parishes in no systematic manner, and it was under the command of no one officer.

With the exception of the police of the town of Kingston, where a fourth part of the whole force was employed, it was a thoroughly inefficient body, costing upwards of 25,000*l.* a year. This inefficiency had been demonstrated by the events of 1865.

The present law authorizes the employment at a maximum of—

1 Inspector General.
1 Deputy Inspector General.
30 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors.
117 non-commissioned officers.
800 constables.

But this scale has been found larger than necessary, considering the complete and

very remarkable change of sentiment in the mass of the people that has occurred within the last two years. The force to be actually employed will be very considerably within the above maximum, both in regard to officers and men, when the establishment is completed according to the present plans. It is not intended to appoint a Deputy Inspector General.

The new force has been constituted very much upon the model of the Irish constabulary, and it is regulated by a code of rules framed from those of that constabulary and of the metropolitan police.

The men are enlisted for five years, and before they are posted in the several parishes they undergo military training as well as civil instruction at a central depöt in Spanish Town, established in the old Military Barracks. When on ordinary duty they carry batons, but when ordered out, under arms, being under military organization, they would be able to overawe, or instantly to repress, even such a violent and lawless demonstration as occurred in St. Thomas in 1865.

I have no fear of a repetition of such occurrences as those of 1865. The causes which produce such terrible effects will not now be allowed to exist; or, at the worst, will not now be allowed to come neglected and unchecked to maturity. But where all our hopes are in the establishment of a general and lasting confidence in the security of life and property, and in the permanence of the present happy state of tranquillity in Jamaica, we cannot easily be too strong in order to the sure prevention of such breaches of order as in all countries local accidents must be expected occasionally to threaten.

The constabulary, in addition to their ordinary duties, are employed with great advantage in the protection of the revenue under the excise and customs laws.

Up to the present time, twelve of the fourteen parishes of this Island have been supplied with the new force. The expense of this force, when completed, is estimated by the Inspector General at about 40,000*l.* a year, exceeding that of the old police by 15,000*l.*

Law 10 of 1867. A law for registering all lands, and for laying a duty upon houses heretofore exempt from duty.

This law, which had duration for one year only, imposed a registration tax of one penny an acre on all land; and it brought under the house tax of one shilling and sixpence in the pound upon houses of the annual value of 12*l.* and upwards, houses of this class upon sugar estates and cattle pens which had been previously exempted from all house tax. It imposed also, for the first time, a petty house tax (varying from 2*s.* to 6*s.*) on houses of less annual value than 12*l.* Houses of labourers on plantations were exempt from this tax.

The petty house tax imposed for the first time by this law was paid by the people with remarkable cheerfulness. It realized more than the estimate. It was carefully explained to the people at the time that the financial necessities of the Colony rendered the imposition of new taxes unavoidable, and that justice required that all classes, large landed proprietors, traders, and small settlers, should contribute in fair proportions. It was announced that the whole of the house tax, both old and new, was intended to be converted into a parochial poor rate, rising and falling in each parish according to its actual wants; and this intention has been carried out by a law passed in the year now current. Heretofore the poor of each parish were maintained by allotments from the general revenues, made upon no recognized principle, and upon no system whatsover, each parish endeavouring to get as much money from the Executive Committee as it could induce that body to allot to it. As the parochial vestries had an interest in obtaining as much from the general treasury, as possible, and had no interest in economising parochial expenditure, the system was abused in the manner that might have been expected.

Law 11 of 1867. A law for laying a duty on imports, exports, and the tonnage of vessels.

This law is a consolidation of the customs laws previously existing. It makes very little change in the general tariff; but it abolishes the former four per cent. duty on the following articles of import, viz.; galvanised iron, marble, machines, mills, patent fuel, pans for boiling sugar, pipes, ploughs, harrows ,and other agricultural implements, pumps, railway truck wheels, stills, steam engines, and tiles. It abolishes also the export duties on the following minor articles of export, viz.:

Beeswax.
Arrowroot.
Cocoanuts.
Honey.

The export duty upon sugar, rum, coffee, pimento, dye-woods, and ginger remains. The proceeds of this duty are applied to the payment of the interest and principal of the

JAMAICA.

immigration loans, and to the funds for the introduction of immigrants and the providing of return passages for them.

Law 18 of 1867. A law imposing trade licences.

This law imposes a licence duty, varying from 25*l.* to 1*l.*, on merchants and dealers. The duty in the case of retail dealers is regulated by the value of the premises in which the business is carried on. The extreme financial difficulties in which the Colony had become involved made new taxations inevitable. Law 10 of 1867 having imposed a new direct tax upon large landed proprietors and small settlers, a law of this nature was necessary in order to bring fairly under contribution the trading classes of the Colony.

Law 19 of 1867. Repealing the statutory provisions relating to the declaring of martial law.

This law, which was passed at the recommendation of the Secretary of State, repeals the Jamaica statutes which empowered the Governor, with the advice of what was designated, somewhat strangely, a council of war, to declare martial law in times of disturbance. These statutes had their origin in the worst days of slavery.

Law 20 of 1867. A law to reduce the number of parishes.

The Island was originally divided into 15 parishes. New parishes were created from time to time until the number (in 1866) amounted to 22.

A parish in Jamaica is of the nature of a county in England. It has its separate commission of the peace, its custos rotulorum, clerk of the peace, clerk of the parish board, collector of taxes, clerk of the parochial road board, coroner, and rector; and a circuit court is held at its principal town or village. But a great disparity existed in the size and population of the several parishes. Nearly one half of the Island was divided into seven parishes, of which none were of unmanageable size, while the other half, being that nearest the seat of Government, was divided into no less than 15 parishes, several of which were extremely small. Thus the parish of St. Elizabeth had an area of 448 square miles, and (in 1861) a population of 37,777 souls, whilst St. David had an area of 76½ square miles, and (in 1861) a population of 6,452 souls.

By this law the 15 parishes near the seat of Government are re-arranged, and reduced in number to seven. By this new arrangement, which leaves the seven old large parishes untouched, the whole Island is divided into 14 parishes, not very unequal in population, and, with the exception of the city and parish of Kingston, not very unequal in area.

The eventual saving in the annual expenditure by this reduction will amount to 3,864*l.*, irrespective of the amount to be saved by converting eight rectories into curacies, all of which saving is obtained with an increase rather than a decrease of efficiency. This saving is not the only or the most important advantage to be derived from the equalization of the parishes. It is a great object to make each parish a complete system in itself, in the judicial, revenue, police, immigration, pauper, and medical departments, in its system of parochial roads, and eventually in its ecclesiastical establishment.

With only 14 parishes many parochial reforms will be practicable which would have been impracticable with 22.

Law 26 of 1867. A law to facilitate the remedies on bills of exchange and promissory notes, and the prevention of frivolous or fictitious defences to actions thereon.

This is an adaptation of the English statute, 18 & 19 Victoria, chapter 67. Before the passing of this law a solvent party, sued on a bill of exchange in an action to which no defence is made, could delay payment for nine and even for twelve months.

By this law the holder of a dishonoured bill of exchange can enforce payment from a solvent party to the bill in a very few days. This law came into operation on the 1st day of January 1868, and it has been of marked advantage to legitimate commerce.

Law 27 of 1867. For preventing frauds upon creditors by secret bills of sale of personal chattels.

This is an adaptation of the English Act, 17 & 18 Victoria, chapter 36, which invalidates unregistered bills of sale. The necessity of a law of this sort in Jamaica had become very apparent.

Law 29 of 1867. A law for the better prevention of contagious diseases.

This law is an adaptation of the recent imperial statute having the same object, and it was passed at the recommendation of the Secretary of State. It still remains for the Imperial Government, in its naval and military departments, to make the provision needful for the carrying into effect of this important law. Such provision is very much wanted in Jamaica.

Law 34 of 1867. A law to authorize the Jamaica Railway Company to make and

maintain a branch or continuation line of railway from Spanish Town to Old Harbour, and to raise additional capital.

By this law the Jamaica Railway Company is empowered to extend their line to a distance of about 13 miles from the former terminus. The length of the present railway from Kingston to Spanish Town is 12 miles. The work on the line has already commenced, and it is expected that the new line, whereby the railway mileage of the Colony will be doubled, will be completed early in 1869.

Laws 35 to 39 of 1867. These laws provide for the establishment of district courts. The reasons which led to the enactment of these laws have been set forth at length in my despatch to the Secretary of State, dated 26th September 1866, which has been printed amongst papers presented to Parliament in July 1867.

These district courts, of which the judges are barristers or advocates from the United Kingdom, are framed in respect of small common law and equity cases upon the model of the English county courts. They have a limited jurisdiction in cases respecting titles to and interests in land, and an unlimited jurisdiction in cases of unlawful possession of land without colour of title. They have also a limited criminal jurisdiction. In criminal cases defendants charged before a magistrate's court can have the trial moved up to the court of the district judge. An appeal lies from them to the supreme court upon all questions of law. The district court judges have each a head station, from which they make monthly circuits to the principal out-stations within their territorial jurisdictions.

By laws passed in 1868 the district courts have become the insolvent courts of the Island, and their jurisdiction has been extended to cases of probate. It is proposed to give them special jurisdiction in cases concerning immigrant labourers (coolies) under indenture.

It is intended to have in all eight district courts, five of which have been already established.

As the supreme court has the unnecesary number of four judges, economy has been practised by appointing one of its judges to be the judge of the district court of Kingston, on his present salary.

The working of these courts will fall to be described in my report upon the Blue Book of the present year. But I may say here, with perfect confidence, that this great judicial reform has been in its practical working completely successful, and that these new courts are already highly appreciated by the public generally, and even by classes to whom the constitution of such local tribunals was at first distasteful.

Revenue and Expenditure.

In my report on the year 1866 (which for financial purposes ended on the 30th September 1866, and which may be taken as the last financial year under the old constitution,) I had to make the following statement: "On the whole it may be "stated as a sufficiently close approximation to the truth for practical purposes, that "the revenue due to the taxation of the year fell short of the ordinary expenditure "of the year by more than 60,000*l.*" The ordinary expenditure for the year 1865–66 was 343,297*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, exclusive of all extraordinary expenditure, such as charges for the suppression of the insurrection and the construction of works, provided for by special loans, it is also exclusive of immigration charges, which are separately provided for. And this amount of ordinary expenditure was incurred without making any provision approaching to an adequate provision for the two vital objects, of justice and police. The year now under report, therefore, (which may be taken as the first financial year under the new constitution,) opened under circumstances of very extreme difficulty. A vast deficit had to be met; whilst new and expensive items of expenditure had to be incurred for objects which it was impossible either in justice to the people or with safety to the Colony to postpone.

It was obvious that two very unpleasant and not very easy remedies were inevitable; first, to reduce as much as possible all expenditure for purposes not of vital and immediate importance; and, secondly, largely to increase the revenue by the imposition of new taxes. And as reductions could only be made gradually it was not to be expected that the object of equalizing revenue and expenditure could be attained immediately. Pending the attainment of this object, as the new Government entered upon its responsibilities with an empty treasury, it was impossible to avoid depending upon borrowed money to meet a part of the ordinary expenditure.

The practice, however, of raising annual loans for extraordinary purposes, such as new roads and other useful public works, was discontinued in 1866–67; the finances in that year not being able to bear additional payments for interest and sinking funds, however

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legitimate such loans for important and permanent objects may be when revenue and expenditure are in equilibrium.

A permanent saving at the annual rate of 27,055*l.* was effected by retrenchments carried into effect within the financial year 1866–67.

The following table gives a summary of these operations :—

Annual rate of reductions effected in 1866–67.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By the abolition of the late constitution	10,785	0	0			
By providing for certain parochial charges in the ecclesiastical department by means of the voluntary contributions of the congregations	6,175	0	0			
By vacancies from death and retirement amongst the clergy not filled up	5,371	0	0			
By retrenchments consequent on the reduction of the number of parishes from 22 to 14	2,260	0	0			
By amalgamations of the Surrey and Middlesex County Jails, and abolition of Montego Bay Female Prison	940	0	0			
By stoppage of subsidy for a steam communication with New York	4,900	0	0			
By saving charges for main roads in excess of the revenue of the Main Road Fund	4,562	0	0			
By saving charges on the Perpetual Annuity	2,400	0	0			
By reductions on annual grants	2,548	0	0			
By saving on the old police, in course of abolition	3,913	0	0			
By miscellaneous offices reduced and abolished	2,309	0	0			
Total reductions				46,163	0	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deduct annual rate of new charges incurred—						
By officers under the new constitution	12,839	0	0			
By curates at reduced pay, and catechists, substituted for clergymen, on the establishment, deceased or resigned	1,464	0	0			
By miscellaneous new offices and increases of salary	2,538	0	0			
By pensions	2,267	0	0			
Total increase				19,108	0	0
Rate of annual net reductions				27,055	0	0

Of the total sum of 27,055*l.* above shown, about 18,090*l.* was saved within the financial year. The whole amount of course will be saved within the year 1867–68. Against this last-mentioned sum must be set the new charges actually incurred within the year for the new district courts, viz., 3,013*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and for the new constabulary, viz., 13,021*l.* 17*s.*, amounting together to 16,035*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

It will be seen that the actual savings made within the year on items which were either unnecessary or of secondary importance exceeded by 2,054*l.* the new expenditure within the year upon items of vital importance.

Thus it becomes apparent that the necessary improvements in the departments of justice and police might have been provided for without any increase of taxation if the taxes imposed under the old constitution had not been quite insufficient to meet the ordinary current expenditure upon the establishments as they existed under that constitution.

The new taxes imposed by the Legislative Council within the financial year 1866–67 were:

1. An increase of duty on rum consumed from two shillings and ninepence to five shillings a gallon.
2. A tax for one year of one penny an acre on land.
3. A tax on trade licences.
4. An extension of the old house tax, and the imposition of a new petty house tax, in order to the conversion of both into a parochial poor-rate.

By the first of these measures the indirect taxation was augmented, and by the last three the direct taxation was augmented. The object in laying on these three last taxes, now first imposed, was to bring fairly under contribution, in reasonable proportion to their means, all classes of people.

The increase of the duty on rum had been so largely anticipated by dealers for some time back, that the enhanced rate of duty produced no increase of revenue in 1866–67, pending the consumption of the very large stock of spirits taken out of bond in anticipation of it. On the contrary, so largely had the duty due to 1866–67 been anticipated by payments made long before the year opened, that the excise revenue of this year fell short of the former average, and but for the increased duty upon such spirits as were taken out of bond in the course of the year it would have been much less even than it was. The increase of duty, however, has been telling greatly to the advantage of the revenue during the financial year 1867–68. The other three new taxes produced in the year now under report 24,349*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

The revenue of 1866–67, exclusive of the receipts applicable to immigration charges, amounted to 295,484*l.*, and the gross receipts of the year amounted to 393,444*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, as shown by the following table:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duty				147,403	10	9
Tonnage dues				11,673	9	7
Excise—						
Rum duty	32,361	17	4			
Licences	8,725	11	0	41,087	8	4
Licences, old trade	79	19	7			
„ new „	6,121	9	2	6,201	8	9
Stamps				9,851	8	10
Direct taxes—						
Land tax, old (roads)	7,136	10	5			
„ new	6,502	18	2			
House tax, old	5,752	0	0			
„ new	11,725	10	4			
Horse and wheel tax (roads)	17,191	5	9			
Tax on stock, &c.	6,556	16	8			
				54,865	1	4
Post office				10,504	13	3
Miscellaneous				13,897	6	11
				295,484	7	9
Money received on loan				58,725	0	0
Excess of deposit in treasury over withdrawals				13,830	3	9
Applicable to immigration funds.						
Export duty	22,066	17	0			
Capitation fees	3,337	15	4	25,404	12	4
				393,444	3	10

Notwithstanding the new taxes, the gross revenue of 1866-67, including the export duties and other immigration receipts, was by 6,470*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* less than that of 1865–66, and it was by 13,988*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* less than that of 1864–65.

The falling off was principally in the items of import duties, excise, and stamps.

	1864–65.	1865–66.	1866–67.
	£	£	£
Import duties	174,342	155,884	147,403
Excise (including spirit licences)	55,089	64,228	41,087
Stamps	13,615	13,412	9,851

The falling off in the import duties was anticipated in my report of last year.

JAMAICA.

For some years previous to the year under report, there had been much overtrading on fictitious capital, fostered by a faulty banking system, now happily corrected. In the year 1866–67 the markets had become greatly overstocked, a terrible commercial crisis occurred, and the reaction which followed upon past overtrading had necessarily a very unfavourable effect on the imports trade. The same causes affected the revenue from stamps.

It was certainly unfortunate that a commercial crisis, such as I believe never before occurred in this Colony, by which our main item of revenue suffered so severely, should have occurred when for the first time, during a long series of years, the Government of the Colony was undertaking the task of restoring the finances to a sound condition.

It is, however, satisfactory to know, from the actual results of the financial year which has just ended, 1867–68, that our financial difficulties, great as they were, have been now at last overcome.

At this date the revenue and expenditure of the Colony has been brought to an equilibrium. For the first time for I know not how many years the financial statement of 1867–68 will show a surplus, though a small one. The explanation will be afforded in my report of next year. This gratifying result has been attained by a continuance of the system of reducing all avoidable expenditure, by a slight increase of indirect taxation, by the increased productiveness of the rum duty, and in some degree by the partial recovery of trade from its most extreme state of prostration.

It is satisfactory to find that the export duties for 1867 show an increase.

1864–65.	1865–66.	1866–67.
£17,588.	£21,326.	£22,067.

This increase in the export duty is due entirely to increased exports. Excluding from the accounts of both years the expenditure for the introduction of immigrants and other immigration charges, the expenditure of 1866–67 was 333,125*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*; and the expenditure for 1865–66 was 343,297*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; showing a decrease in expenditure for the year under report to the extent of 10,172*l.*, as detailed in the following table:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

	1866–67.	1865–66.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Civil	19,799	19,882	—	83
Judicial	19,821	20,327	—	506
Do. new, for district courts	3,014		3,014	—
Revenue	22,963	21,614	1,349	—
Botanic garden	607	726	—	119
Post office	10,665	9,816	849	—
Ecclesiastical stipends	28,743	30,042	—	1,299
Hospitals	15,150	17,327	—	2,177
Old police	21,322	25,235	—	3,913
New constabulary	13,022	—	13,022	—
Prisons	23,363	33,310	—	9,947
Education	4,622	3,445	1,177	—
Miscellaneous	5,240	6,482	—	1,242
Steamer subsidy	1,225	4,900	—	3,675
Military	1,684	2,659	—	975
Roads	26,803	33,409	—	6,606
Public buildings	2,334	6,945*	—	4,611
Pensions and gratuities	6,964	3,578	3,386	—
Lighthouses	1,534	2,081	—	547
Parochial offices	4,629	5,130	—	501
Do. General	33,267	39,099	—	5,832
Do. Ecclesiastical	3,542	6,629	—	3,087
Interest and sinking fund	62,812	50,661	12,151	—
	333,125	343,297	34,948	45,120
Saved	10,172	—	—	—
	343,297	343,297	—	—

* Defrayed in part from "Perpetual Annuity."

This is exclusive of immigration charges, which amounted in 1866–67 to 41,801*l.*, 1865–66, 11,581*l.*, and are more fully referred to under the head of Immigration.

Pensions.

Special compensation in the form of pensions to the amount of 1,445*l.* a year, and in the form of donations to the amount of 1,200*l.*, was granted this year to officers who lost their offices in consequence of the change in the constitution of the Colony. Of the officers so pensioned two have been re-employed, their pensions being suspended whilst in employment.

Previously to the introduction of the new form of government, there was no system of superannuation in Jamaica. A few pensions, in compensation for offices abandoned, were secured by permanent Acts, and a few to favoured individuals were voted annually by the Legislature. But these grants, when made, were not based on any rules of service, or on any principle whatsoever. For the most part, incapacitated officers held on to the salaries of their offices as long as they lived.

A regular system of superannuation has now been introduced, and the provisions of the English superannuation regulations have been adapted to the circumstances of the civil service of the Colony. Incumbents, although pensions were not authorized or expected when they accepted office, have been allowed the full benefit of the new pension rules.

Under these new regulations, five clergymen of the Established Church, who from age or ill health had been long incapable of properly performing the duties of their office, retired this year on pensions. And four other persons whose offices were abolished have been compensated by retiring pensions. The gross annual amount of pensions thus granted under these regulations this year was 1,329*l.* 13*s.*

Public Debt.

The only law for raising money on loan, passed in the year 1866–67, was Law 2. of 1867, under which 12,925*l.* were raised towards replacing a sum of 13,075*l.* which had been borrowed by the late Government and Legislature from the immigration funds of the Colony, and had been by them expended for general purposes, but which, being now required for immigration purposes, it was necessary to repay to the immigration funds. The cash balance of the Colony having been exhausted, it became necessary to borrow for the purpose of making this repayment.

The amount actually received during this year on loans for all purposes was 58,725*l.* Of this amount, 12,925*l.* was raised as above explained; 10,000*l.* were borrowed as a temporary accommodation from the Colonial Bank; and 35,800*l.* were received on loans opened under laws passed in previous years, but not filled up at the commencement of the year under report. During the year, 1,100*l.* of the principal money of old loans were repaid, and investments were made in sinking funds for redemption of debt to the extent of 21,452*l.*

The public debt stood as follows, at the end of each of the last three years, after making allowance for the sinking funds invested for the redemption of debts:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1865 - - -	734,717	17	6
1866 - - -	757,316	17	8
1867 - - -	788,090	19	1

The annual charge on the estimates for interest paid amounted this year to 50,820*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and for money invested in sinking funds to 18,551*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, in addition to the sum of 2,900*l.* provided for sinking fund appropriations of the year 1865-66, which were not duly invested in that year.

Public Works.

No public work of any importance was undertaken this year, and only the insignificant sum of 2,282*l.* was spent under this head. There are works of great importance to the Colony which should be undertaken as soon as the finances are in a more prosperous condition.

The expenditure on the maintenance and repairs of roads and bridges was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Main roads - - -	12,709	19	1
Parochial roads - -	14,093	1	9

The court-house at Morant Bay, which was destroyed during the outbreak in 1865, was rebuilt at the charge of the rebellion loan.

Civil Establishment.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Mann, R.E., was appointed Director of Roads and Surveyor General and Superintendent of Public Works.

The main roads were formerly under the management of a main road board. The advantage of having this department under one responsible and qualified head is already apparent. As Surveyor General, the Land Department is also under Colonel Mann. It is intended to obtain all requisite information respecting Crown lands, and unclaimed and abandoned properties, which are a fertile cause of dispute, and which from the system of squatting they encourage tend much to demoralize the peasantry.

The late Auditor General having been transferred without change of salary to another office, the Audit Department, which, under the old system, was very inefficient, has been placed under the charge of Mr. J. W. Straton, a gentleman from the English Audit Office, by whom a proper system of audit is in course of being introduced. The advantages of this reform have been great. The salary of the Auditor General has been increased from 750*l.* to 1,000*l.* a year; but this measure having been connected with other departmental changes involving reductions, which included the abolition of the office of Receiver General, of which the salary was 1,200*l.* a year, the result of the whole arrangement has been a great increase of efficiency, and a material saving of charge.

Three district courts under the new laws were constituted on the first of November, to which the following gentlemen were appointed judges: Hon. J. F. Cargill, Kingston; Patrick Blair, Spanish Town; Charles Rampini, Port Antonio.

Savings Banks.

Nine savings banks are in operation. The deposits are as follows:—

	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£	£	£
Depositors -	2,372	2,276	2,278
Deposits -	55,945	66,720	54,807

In the return for 1867 is not included the deposits of the Trelawny Savings Bank. It was discovered in June 1867 that this bank had been defrauded to a very large amount by one of its officers, and the institution has become bankrupt in consequence. Owing to a dispute among the managers, arising out of this circumstance, the Government has been unable to obtain from this institution any returns for 1867. It has since been ascertained that the frauds on this bank, perpetrated by the secretary, amount to not less than 8,453*l.* As far as can be ascertained, the amount due to depositors is 11,111*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, and the assets of the bank are only 2,657*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* The difference is the sum plundered by the late secretary, who has been convicted, and is now undergoing penal servitude.

The savings banks are all private institutions. The Government has no control over their management, but it allows to the banks interest on their floating deposits at the high rate of 6 per cent. The depositors receive interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.

The Trlawney Savings Bank is not the first of these institutions which has been largely defrauded, to the severe loss of the depositors, who may be assumed to be the best conducted of the classes to which they belong.

It is in contemplation to establish a Government Savings Bank, somewhat after the example of the English Post Office Savings Bank.

Immigration.

After an interval of four years, immigration was resumed this year, when 1,600 immigrants were indented for by planters. The following number of immigrants were landed during the course of 1867:—

	Males.	Females.	Infants.	Total.
Coolies - -	1,091	498	36	1,625
Africans - -	10	1	0	11
			Total -	1,636

The last preceding batch were received on the 3rd of March 1863. This revival of the system accounts for the large expenditure chargeable this year against the immigration funds.

The expenditure of 1865–66 for emigration purposes was 11,580*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, and for 1866–67 it amounted to 41,801*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, showing an increase of expenditure to the extent of 30,220*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* in this year.

The yield of the revenues applicable to immigration were as follows :—

	In 1865–6. £	*s.*	*d.*	1866–7. £	*s.*	*d.*
Export duty - -	21,326	1	8	22,066	17	0
Capitation fees - -	2,671	12	10	3,337	15	4
Total -	23,997	14	6	25,404	12	4

13,075*l.* of the export duties raised in 1865–66 having been borrowed for general objects, a law, 2 of 1867, was passed, authorizing the raising of a loan of that amount to repay the immigration fund. The amount was accordingly raised, and appropriated to the introduction of immigrants.

The total number of immigrants under indenture (as not having yet resided for five years) on the 31st December 1867 was 2,120, viz., 1,805 Coolies and 315 Africans. This number includes all the immigrants received during the year 1867. On the same date the total number of Coolies who had served five years, but had not served an industrial residence of ten years (after which time they have the option of returning home), was 2,837.

Immigration is under the existing laws a matter dependent entirely upon the judgment and means of the individual planter, and the revival of the system in 1867 is a very noticeable feature of the year.

Paupers.

On the 31st December 1867, 4,035 persons were receiving relief in the several parishes. This would give a proportion of about nine to every thousand inhabitants. This is exclusive of the number receiving temporary relief in the hospitals of the Colony.

The returns for paupers for previous years being incomplete, I am unable to compare the number in 1867 with the number in former years.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports for the past three years amounted to—

1865. £	1866. £	1867. £
1,050,984	1,030,976	859,186

showing for the year under report 191,789*l.* less than in 1865, and 171,790*l.* less than 1866.

The great decrease in 1867 was caused by the commercial crisis elsewhere mentioned. Trade has now recovered a sounder tone, and is in a much more satisfactory state in reality than it has been for a considerable time past.

The exports of the principal staples for the last three years were as shown in the following tables : —

	1865.	1866.	1867.
Sugar - - - cwts.	483,681	600,836	515,901
Rum - - - - galls.	1,409,800	1,765,775	1,728,832
Coffee - - - lbs.	6,229,712	8,413,532	6,264,861
Pimento - - - „	3,861,510	4,866,239	7,595,800
Dyewoods - - - tons.	27,064	36,570	48,481
Ginger - - - lbs.	1,020,023	1,550,166	1,728,075
Arrowroot - - - „	43,151	70,204	44,566

The sugar and coffee crops of 1866, as compared with those of late years, were particularly large ; in regard to these crops, therefore, the results of 1867 are not discouraging. The sugar crop of 1868 will be a large crop as compared with the average of late years. The increase in the proportion of rum to sugar in 1867 is a noticeable feature, rum being the commodity in regard to which, so far as quality and high price are concerned, Jamaica is still far ahead of all other Colonies.

The export of pimento, owing to the extreme fall in the price of this very excellent spice since the Russian War, depends now not so much on the crop as on the price, on a

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small variation in which depends the question whether it will pay to gather the crop of a pimento ground or not.

The trade in woods, which has sprung up into an extensive business only of late years, continues to increase largely. The increase in the production, in 1867, of ginger, which is a crop of the small settler, is a satisfactory feature.

On the whole, the results of the crop of 1867 appear to me to be encouraging.

Education.

The number of elementary schools in the Island in 1867 was 379, of which 226 received aid from the Government.

The total amount of Government aid granted to the elementary schools was 2,600*l.*, which was disbursed in sums varying from 5*l.* to 30*l.* to each school, according to the recommendation of the Inspector of Schools. This was in accordance with previous practice, by which the aid granted to schools was regulated by no fixed principle; nor was the grant made conditional on the attainment of any defined standard, either of efficiency or numbers in attendance.

To remedy these defects, and at the same time to afford additional encouragement to the managers of elementary schools, a code of rules has been adopted to regulate the grant of aid to these schools. Under these rules the elementary schools are divided into three classes, according to their efficiency as tested by the annual examination of the Inspector of Schools; and a grant in aid is allowed on a graduated scale, according to the class in which the school is placed. This grant consists partly of a capitation payment on the number of pupils in attendance, and partly of an allowance to the master. The rate of both payments is regulated by the general efficiency of the school.

No aid is given unless the Inspector reports that the school is deserving of support, and comes up to a particular standard of efficiency, and unless the average attendance of scholars has been not less than 20 for each day the school has been open during the year. No grant is made unless school fees are required from the parents or friends of the scholars. No school receives a grant unless it has been open for 180 days within the year.

Schools are divided into first, second, and third classes, the classification being determined, not by the size but by the efficiency of the school.

Besides the above-mentioned elementary schools, there were 25 elementary schools, denominated vestry schools. The annual expenditure on these schools was 881*l.* from the parochial vestries, and 232*l.* from the grant in aid of schools. All these vestry schools were found to be very inefficient, and they were therefore abolished. With the money thus saved it is intended to establish a good model school in each of four parishes not provided with endowed schools. Of these model schools two have now been established, one at Bath in the parish of St. Thomas, and one at Falmouth in Trelawny. For these good and efficient masters have been procured from England.

There are 29 endowed schools in the Island; viz., a grammar school called the Jamaica Free School, in St. Ann;

Woolmer's School in Kingston;
Smith's School and Beckford's School in St. Catherine;
Four elementary schools in Vere;
Seven elementary schools in Manchester;
One elementary school in Westmoreland;
One elementary school in Hanover;
And ten elementary schools in St. Elizabeth.

These schools are supported from the proceeds of private endowments, and the managment thereof is under trustees appointed by local statutes.

Steps are being taken to improve the efficiency of these schools, one by one.

Woolmer's School in Kingston, which is a richly endowed school, has been completely reformed. Two trained masters have been obtained for it from England, and, from having been in its boys' department a far from creditable institution, it is now an admirable school both in the boys' and girls' departments. The two schools in Spanish Town, though well endowed, had been utterly neglected, their income having been entirely wasted. These are now to be amalgamated into one good school, under a trained master to be obtained from England.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The number of prisoners in all the prisons of the Colony has continued to decrease in a very satisfactory manner. In each of the three last years, on the 30th September,

(when the reports of the Inspector of Prisons are made up,) the number of prisoners in confinement was as follows :—

1865	-	1,456
1866	-	1,020
1867	-	936

The number of commitments to the General Penitentiary in 1867 was by 271 less than in 1866.

Health.

I regret to have to report that yellow fever prevailed over a portion of the Island during the whole year. Where it prevailed it was of a very severe type, and the mortality amongst those attacked was great. It principally affected the sailors and other newly arrived Europeans in Kingston and Port Royal, and in country places at no great distance from these ports. But on this occasion several cases occurred in which, unquestionably, this particular sort of malignant fever attacked natives of all colours. The mortality amongst that part of the 84th Regiment, which was stationed at Newcastle, a very healthy mountain cantonment 4,000 feet above the sea, was great. This regiment had only just arrived in the West Indies when the yellow fever broke out. The detachment of the regiment stationed in Manchester, a very healthy parish in the interior of the Island, escaped the disease.

A military medical commission has been sitting this year, to inquire fully into the origin and progress of the disease in Jamaica. The disease did not extend at all over the greater part of the Island; and everywhere, excepting in Kingston, Port Royal, and Newcastle, where newly arrived Europeans were congregated in large numbers, its victims were few. Judging from past experience, we may reasonably hope to be free from this scourge for several years to come. The Island is at the present time very healthy.

General Remarks.

During the year 1867, as during the year 1866, perfect tranquillity was maintained in the Colony; and this tranquillity has continued uninterrupted up to the present time.

The only circumstance which occurred during the year which deserves to be here mentioned is a case of forcible entry and detainer of land.

In the month of July warrants were issued against twenty persons for forcible entry and detainer of an enclosed field, part of an estate called Bushy Park, situated about nine miles from Spanish Town.

A sub-inspector and ten constables were sent to execute these warrants. On arriving at the field in question, it was found to be occupied by about sixty or seventy men and women, the entrance to the field being blockaded with a strong wooden fence, immediately behind which the mob stood. The sub-inspector of constabulary, who acted very well throughout the affair, entered the field with the constables, and, although seriously assaulted, captured fifteen persons against whom there were warrants, and three other persons who took part in the assault, without injuring any one. The inspector then took possession of the field, and restored it to the proprietor of the estate. The whole of the prisoners were brought into Spanish Town by the constables, and were subsequently tried at the Circuit Court, convicted and punished.

It is supposed that these people believed that the land in question did not belong to the estate, but was unclaimed Crown land. This is the sort of case that is likely occasionally to occur, and that would be not unlikely to lead to some disturbance of the peace, if not promptly met by an adequate force of constables.

In August 1866 there were detachments of troops from the head quarters of the two regiments quartered in Jamaica at eight outposts, viz., in Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Falmouth, Montego Bay, Lucea, Savannah la Mar, and Mandeville.

This disposal of troops, after the events of October 1865, was thought necessary for the security of life and property throughout the Colony.

From five of these outposts the detachments were withdrawn in the year 1867; and outposts, which may be considered as permanent, are now retained only at Port Antonio and Falmouth, on the north coast of the Island, and at Mandeville, a central and very healthy position in the interior.

These are no more than the extent and configuration of the Island seem naturally to demand, with reference to the number of troops in the Colony.

Not a soldier has been called out for any internal service since I assumed charge of the Government.

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The petty house tax, first imposed in 1867, which now, with the former tax on the better class of houses, constitutes a poor rate, has been paid by the black settlers this year (1868), as it was last year, without exciting a murmur of discontent, the people themselves having been satisfied of its necessity and fairness, and knowing its object. Contrasting this state of feeling with that which existed three years ago, the present state of contentment of the mass of the population is a decisive and a very remarkable proof of their confidence in the new constitution under which the Colony was placed in 1866.

A general house tax has long been regarded as a legitimate impost, with reference to the circumstances of the Colony, the black settlers being on the whole, perhaps, the class of people whose means best suffice for their wants; but no such direct impost was or could safely have been ventured upon with the temper of the people such as it was formerly.

The sugar crop of 1867, throughout equal to that of 1866, was rather above than below the average of late years. The commercial crisis of 1867 was a severe trial, but its permanent effects will be beneficial to the interests of a sound and honest trade.

There are already signs that security and tranquillity are beginning to have their natural effects in turning the attention of capitalists to a Colony whose natural resources are unbounded.

It is not too much to say that the capital necessary for the extension of the single railway of Jamaica to double its former mileage would hardly have been found had Jamaica not become a Crown Colony.

Another costly improvement is about to be commenced by private enterprise, namely, the erection of a graving dock in the magnificent harbour of Kingston, a project which has been vainly talked of for years past.

There is an immediate prospect of Jamaica being connected with the telegraphic system of the world, by a cable running from the American continent, either through Cuba (which is already in connexion with America) or otherwise.

An American company has undertaken, by a new and it is believed a successful process, the preparation of bamboo fibre upon a large scale, from which excellent paper and felt may be manufactured; and with the water power afforded by nature it is hardly doubtful that the final manufacturing process will eventually be carried on in the Island, though the present arrangements are made only for the preparation here of the raw material. The machinery required for this purpose has been landed.

It seems to me that some slight attention is just beginning to be turned to several industries for which nature has prepared this Island, which is for nothing more remarkable than for the variety of its soil and climate.

It is certain that cocoa-nut oil and fibre, and tobacco, require only the application to their production of moderate capital and adequate skill to become staples of export from Jamaica, each perhaps of even greater importance than coffee now is.

The fruit trade, which in the neighbouring Bahama Islands affords an important staple of export in the article of pine apples alone, is here still neglected, although there is no place in the world more suited by nature for the production of exportable fruits of great market value; nor can it be doubtful that Jamaica is capable once again of producing the chocolate cocoa as one of its chief staples.

The old Jamaica planters' prejudice, which treated as baneful to the Colony all attempts to turn attention from any thing but sugar cultivation, is fast expiring.

Of sugar cultivation itself (which, I think, probably, with advertence to the singular capacity of Jamaica for making rum of the highest quality, will always be the principal, though, if nature had been left to take its course, it would never have been the only, great industry of the Island,) my own expectations are hopeful.

Owing to the extravagant prices caused by the great continental war, and too long continued in a great degree by the unfortunate system of protection, a very large proportion (perhaps one third or more) of the sugar made in Jamaica, when the export of sugar was greatest, was made upon land that never ought to have been cropped with cane, and never would have been cane land under any natural state of things.

The mere cost of production in those days on many estates was stated as far exceeding what is now the highest price of sugar in the London market.

The first effect of a return to the natural scale of prices was the abandonment of cane cultivation on unsuitable lands. But, properly reviewed, this abandonment was a pure economical gain.

Taking roughly the average production of late years at one third of the maximum production of former times, more than one half of the difference must be attributed to this cause, and is therefore no real loss. Here, as everywhere, artificial prices introduced careless and unthrifty management, traces of which are still apparent.

The habit, too, of retaining sugar estates working unprofitably for years in the hands of those wanting either the capital or the capacity necessary to secure a profit, instead of transferring them to more competent hands before it was too late, has tended much to depreciate Jamaica as a sugar colony, and, with reasons of a politic nature, which happily no longer exist, has kept out the fresh blood and fresh capital with which other colonies have been re-invigorated.

But I see no ground for supposing that this unnatural state of things will always continue. I have often inquired, and I have been unable to hear, of one resident sugar planter in any part of Jamaica at present, of recognized skill in his business, and possessed of capital sufficient for the proper management of all the land in his hands, who is not making a fair profit out of his property. And I believe that on the estates of such planters where cane cultivation may be profitably increased such increase is now in progress. For the greater part of a century past, owing at first to the unjust trade laws of the mother country, and latterly to the long struggle of the colonists for the maintenance of slavery and protection, and for the expenditure of English money in those bad causes, it has become a habit in Jamaica to raise a cry of danger for the time being, and of hopeless ruin in prospect. The consequences of indulgence in this habit have been certainly unfavourable to the interests of the proprietied classes.

Though fully sensible of the insular unpopularity to be incurred by the open announcement of a contrary view, I am bound to confess, that as no reasonable person can doubt of the perfect security of the Colony now, so my own expectations as to its general prospects for the future are entirely hopeful.

I have, &c.,
J. P. GRANT.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor LONGDEN to Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

(No. 101.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, June 19, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867.

2. I only assumed the government of Honduras on the 31st of October last, and I therefore propose to restrict my present report to a few remarks suggested by the enclosed tables, reserving a fuller report upon the state and prospects of the Colony until next year.

Taxes, Duties, and other sources of Revenue.

3. The taxation of the Colony was not materially altered in 1867. The import duty on beer was reduced from the excessive rate of 2*s.* a gallon to 1*s.*, and the duty on wine from 6*s.* a gallon to 2*s.* These reductions were followed by an increase in the importations. The amount charged on a licence to sell liquors by retail, *not* to be drunk on the premises, was reduced from 30*l.* to 6*l.* This reduction was, I think, impolitic, as it induced many persons to take out the 6*l.* licences in the country places, where they could not be properly watched by the police, and so injured the holders of retail publicans' licences, which were still charged 40*l.* each.

4. An Act was passed in November 1867 for imposing a tax upon houses and lands throughout the Colony, but, as it did not come into operation until the 1st of January 1868, it will be more properly reported upon in the report of the Blue Book of 1868.

Fees.

5. All fees payable in the public offices of Honduras are fixed by law, and are paid into the public treasury, in pursuance of an Act passed in 1842 (6 Vict. c. 5. s. 3.), which recites that "it is intended to place the public officers on salaries, instead of "remunerating them by fees as heretofore." The gross amount of fees received in

BRITISH HONDURAS.

1867 is stated in the revenue account to have been 2,190*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, but this includes 333*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* received from the post office, which should have been placed under a separate head; making the fees proper 1,856*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The revenue received in 1867 was 32,360*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, showing an increase of 6,854*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* over the revenue of 1866. Nearly the whole of this increase took place in the import duties.

7. The expenditure is stated to have been 30,506*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of 1,086*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* over the expenditure of 1866.

8. The expenditure of 1867 was, however, much greater than is shown in the Blue Book. The sum of 30,506*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* represents the sums actually *paid;* but very great liabilities were incurred, some of which have been paid off in 1868, but some of which (such as the debt incurred to the Imperial Government for extraordinary expenses) have not yet been paid. The cause of the vastly increased expenditure of 1867 was the aggression of the Mexican Indians upon the western part of the Colony, and the expense of the measures necessary for their expulsion. The amount paid by the Colony for this service in 1867 was 2,747*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and the amount still due to the War Office is 8,048*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* The organization of the militia cost 1,566*l.* in 1867. The payments due from the general revenue to the immigration fund were temporarily discontinued, and all public works were discontinued.

Public Debt.

9. The public debts of the Colony on the 31st of December 1867 were:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. South of Belize improvement loan - -	17,727	4	0
2. Immigration loan - - - -	16,550	6	3
3. Treasury notes - - - -	237	12	3
Total loans - - - - -	34,515	2	6
Add,			
4. Sum due to the War Department for extraordinary war expenses incurred in 1867 - -	8,048	11	11
5. Due to Her Majesty's Government for postal service in the year 1864 - - -	4,443	0	0
Total debt on 31st of December 1867, exclusive of sums due for current local services - - - -	47,006	14	5

10. The first of these debts is the remainder of a loan of 19,800*l.*, borrowed in 1863 and 1864 for the purpose of effecting improvements in the town of Belize, after the great fire which took place in 1863. This loan bears interest at six per cent. The interest and sinking fund are sufficiently provided for by a special duty of one per cent. on all imports, appropriated solely to the payment of the principal and interest of this loan. The whole of this loan was expended for the purposes for which it was raised.

11. The second of these debts is a loan of 16,550*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, borrowed in 1864, 1865, and 1866, for defraying in the first instance the cost of introducing immigrants into the Colony. This loan also bears interest at six per cent. The credit of the Colony is pledged to the repayment of the loan. A portion of the cost of introducing the immigrants is repaid by the employers to whom they are indentured. Of this loan the sum of 10,354*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* was expended in importing Chinese labourers in 1865; the remainder, amounting to 6,195*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, was expended in the general public service of the Colony, and ought to be replaced from the public revenues.

12. The third debt is part of a sum of 25,000 dollars, or 5,000*l.*, authorized by an Act passed in November 1867 to be issued in treasury notes, in order to pay the current demands upon the public treasury. These notes bear interest of six per cent. They are redeemable within two years, from the produce of the land and property tax imposed at the same time. This tax is specially pledged to the payment of the notes.

13. The debt due to the War Department is the additional expense incurred in the transport and maintenance of the troops when employed in active military operations

upon the frontiers of the Colony in 1867 beyond what would have been incurred if the troops had remained in Belize.

14. The last debt, the sum due to Her Majesty's Government for postal service in the year 1864, is now in course of repayment out of the Imperial contribution to the current mail service between New Orleans and Belize.

Military Expenditure.

15. The expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the protection of this Colony in 1867 amounted to the large sum of 26,235*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*, being 10,399*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* in excess of the expenditure of 1866.

16. This increase resulted from the necessity of employing the troops to repel the aggression of the Mexican Indians, and the greater part of it, 8,048*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, is to be repaid to the Imperial Government from the Colonial treasury.

Militia, &c.

17. The militia nominally consists of a force of 1,050 men, comprising seven divisions, varying in number according to the population of each district. The "Belize Division" numbers nominally 450 men, but I am informed by Lieut.-Colonel Plues, commanding the force, that not 100 men have on any occasion mustered for exercise. The "Corosal" and "Orange Walk" divisions muster together, on paper, 300 men; and about 100 were actually enrolled and called out for active service under Captain Carmichael in the beginning of 1867. The other divisions, numbering in all 300, have never been enrolled at all. The service is so exceedingly unpopular that many of the labouring classes are reported to have left the Colony rather than serve. The Militia Act is at present suspended.

18. Besides the militia, there is a protective force called "The Belize Volunteers," numbering in all 171 men, divided into two companies of rifles and one of artillery, the whole under command of Major Graham. This force was called out for service and put into garrison in Belize during the apprehensions excited by the Indian aggressions in 1866–67.

Legislation.

19. The session of 1867 was very protracted, lasting from the 31st of January to the 16th of November. Twenty Acts were passed by the Legislative Assembly; namely,—

Cap. 1. "An Act to authorize the renewal of debentures becoming due under the South of Belize Improvement Act."

Cap. 2. "An Act for the appointment and regulation of notaries public."

This Act empowered the Lieut.-Governor to appoint any person a notary public on payment of 250 dollars. It has since (1868) been amended by requiring that the fitness of the proposed notary shall be certified by the Chief Justice, and by reducing the licence duty to 50 dollars.

Cap. 3. "An Act to amend the 'Honduras Company Act, 1866,' by exempting banking companies from the provisions thereof."

Cap. 4. "An Act to determine the functions of the South of Belize Improvement Commissioners, and to make the arrangements necessary in consequence thereof."

By this Act the duties, powers, and authorities of the commissioners are transferred to and vested in the Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council. These four Acts have received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation.

Cap. 5. "An Act to reduce the expense and provide more efficiently for the administration of criminal justice by enforcing sentences for short periods of imprisonment in the districts where they are passed."

Cap. 6. "An Act to provide for the better enforcement of sentences of penal servitude, and of imprisonment with hard labour; and for other purposes."

These two Acts have not been confirmed; exception has been taken to some of the provisions, and the amendments are under consideration.

Cap. 7. "An Act to authorize for one year and to the end of the then next session of the Legislature the removal of aliens from the Colony."

This power is very necessary, in the present circumstances of the Colony. The Act has received the Royal confirmation.

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Cap. 8. "An Act to abolish the office of public messenger."
This Act has also been confirmed.

Cap. 9. "An Act to raise a supply for the use of the Government of this Colony by means of import duties, dues, and taxes."

This Act has also been confirmed. By this Act an ad valorem duty is imposed on all unenumerated articles of eight per cent., with a drawback of three per cent. on the re-exportation of whole or unbroken packages. By the Act 16 Vict. c. 4. a permanent duty of one per cent. was imposed on all imports, to defray the civil list, and a further special duty of one per cent. was imposed by the 27 Vict. c. 11., for the purpose of paying off the Belize Improvement Loan. Thus the whole duty is *ten* per cent., and as the drawback on re-exportation is only *three* per cent., it will be seen that a tax of *seven* per cent. is paid upon all goods imported by the merchants of Belize for re-exportation to Central America. Upon the renewal of the Act in the last session, this heavy taxation was complained of by some of the leading merchants, as destructive of the trade altogether, "it being impossible for the importers resident "here to compete in the same market with importers resident in the neighbouring "republics, who are able to sell 6½ per cent. cheaper." The substitution of a bonding system in lieu of drawbacks was strongly advocated, and the whole question has been remitted to a commission empowered to enquire and report to the Legislature. The trade of Belize with the neighbouring republics used to be considerable, but has much declined of late.

Cap. 10. An Act for the encouragement of Mr. Duval in making the River Belize navigable for steamboats, and placing steamboats thereon."

The River Belize is obstructed about 40 miles from the mouth by some rocks, which make a rapid known as the "Big Falls." There are some other obstructions to the navigation of the river, and by this Act the exclusive privilege for five years of using steamboats on the river was conceded to Mr. Duval, an American immigrant, on condition that he made the river navigable to a given point, and placed a steamboat thereon. A sum of 20*l.* was also to be paid to Mr. Duval for each trip made by his steamer up the river. This Act was disallowed by Her Majesty.

Cap. 11. "An Act to provide for the allowance of drawback of import duties in certain cases, and to regulate the mode of proceeding in respect of goods entitled thereto."

This Act merely regulates the mode in which the drawback I have mentioned is to be claimed and allowed. This and all the remaining Acts received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance.

Cap. 12. "An Act to apply part of the public revenue of the Colony for the present year to certain uses."

This is the ordinary Appropriation Act of the year.

Cap 13. "An Act to provide for the appointment and remuneration of a clerk to assist the clerk of courts and keeper of public records."

This Act reduces the salary of the clerk in the clerk of courts' office from 300*l.* to 120*l.* per annum, the duties being merely those of a copyist.

Cap. 14. "An Act to repeal the Act of the 19 Vict. c. 5., to provide assistance towards the payment of a missionary for the northern district, and the 24 Vict. c. 3. amending the same."

By the 19 Vict. c. 5. a sum of 130*l.* per annum was granted for the stipend of "a missionary" in the northern district, with 20*l.* per annum for house rent, and a sum of 120*l.* was also voted for the erection of a place of worship. By the 24 Vict. c. 3. it was declared that the missionary must be a clergyman of the Church of England. Two reasons are assigned in the preamble of the Act of 1867 for repealing these Acts:—first, that "the public burthens require to be lightened;" and, secondly, that "the provision "made in support of education and public worship according to the doctrine and practice "of the Church of England is disproportionate with that made for education and public "worship according to the doctrine and practice of other religious denominations." No appointment of a missionary was ever made under the Acts repealed.

Cap. 15. "An Act to determine the salary payable to the keeper of the powder magazine."

This Act reduces the salary of the keeper of the magazine from 180*l.* to 120*l.* a year.

Cap. 16. "An Act to reduce the salary of the clerk of the courts and keeper of public records upon a vacancy occurring in that office."

The salary is reduced from 600*l.* to 500*l.* a year. The vacancy has occurred.

Cap. 17. "An Act to declare the meaning of the Act of the present session, entitled An Act to raise a supply for the use of the Government of this Colony by means of import duties, dues, and taxes."

Corrects one or two errors in the former Act.

Cap. 18. "An Act to amend the 12 Vict. c. 8. entitled An Act to regulate the weights and measures used in this settlement, and to appoint an inspector of weights and measures, and for other purposes."

This Act confides the future inspection of weights and measures to the police, and so lessons the public charge.

Cap. 19. "An Act to authorize the issue of treasury bills to an amount not exceeding 25,000 dollars payable, with interest."

This Act in effect authorizes a loan of 5,000*l.* payable in two years, because, in the words of the preamble, "the funds in the treasury are at present, and may for some time "continue to be, insufficient to satisfy the demands due and to become due."

Cap. 20. "An Act to raise a revenue by a land and property tax."

This Act imposes a tax of five per cent. on the annual rental of all houses in Belize and the principal villages, and a tax upon all lands at the average rate of two dollars per square mile. This tax is an entirely new tax in Honduras, and was not passed without much discussion. The Act only takes effect from the 1st of January 1868, and a report of its general operation must be deferred until next year.

20. Ten proclamations were issued in 1867, of which nine had relation to the imposition, modification, and withdrawal of martial law in the district infested by hostile Indians, and to the trade with Indians in gunpowder; and one proclaimed Her Majesty's assent to the armed steamer Act.

Population, Immigration, &c.

21. The population of the Colony was ascertained by the census of 1861 to be 25,631. It has since been increased by the immigration of settlers from the United States, and by the introduction of Chinese labourers, as well as by the excess of births over deaths; but I have no sufficient data to estimate accurately the extent of the increase.

22. The number of immigrants into the Colony in 1867 is put down in the Blue Book as 500; but this number is a mere estimate, and not taken from a register. These immigrants came from the United States, but many of them went on from Belize to Spanish Honduras, and others, being disappointed, returned to the States. The number who had actually settled in the Colony by the end of 1867 is not correctly ascertained, but I have reason to believe that it fell far short of 500, and did not reach half that number. I shall cause full information on this head to be procured, and inserted in the Blue Book for 1868.

23. A savings bank was established many years ago by a resolution of the then public meeting, "for the purpose of encouraging frugal habits in the poorer industrial classes." This bank was, in 1862, placed under the trusteeship of the Governor and Executive Council, and the bank was directed to be kept at the public treasury. (25 Vict. c. 5.) The depositors are allowed interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, if the whole of their deposits do not exceed 10*l.*, and 3 per cent. on deposits over that amount. The interest is a charge upon the public revenue. No deposit is received under ten shillings, and no depositor is allowed to have more than 50*l.* (250 dollars) in the bank. On the 31st of December last there were 88 depositors, having an aggregate sum of 1,751*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* in deposit.

24. Pauperism is not excessive. There were on the 31st of December last sixteen paupers receiving indoor relief and fifty-four receiving out-door relief.

Ecclesiastical.

25. In the census of 1861 the inhabitants of the Colony were classed under the following religious denominations:—

Protestants	8,349
Roman Catholics	17,194
Jews	5
Heathens	80
No particular denomination	7
	25,635

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These proportions are probably not materially altered. The Chinese immigrants have swelled the number of non-Christians, and the American immigrants are mostly Protestant. Among the Protestants, two Anglican ministers and one Presbyterian minister alone receive salaries from the public treasury. No provision is made for Roman Catholics, for Wesleyans, or for Baptists, who have several chapels in Belize.

Education.

26. The advancement of education appears to have always received considerable attention at the hands of the Legislature. In 1850 an Act was passed "to provide additional schools for the benefit of every denomination of Christians," and "to make regulations for the government of such schools, and of the Honduras Grammar School." By this Act a board of education was constituted, and empowered to grant an allowance of 30*l.* a year for the master of every school containing not less than 50 children, collected by *any* Christian minister, and to make a further allowance for rent, books, and stationery for every such school. By this also the "Honduras Grammar School" was declared a "free school" for boys and girls, and it was provided that the religious education of the pupils "shall be under the supervision of clergymen of the Church of England." In 1855 an Act was passed requiring that the head master and mistress of the free schools, or (as they are more commonly termed) the "*central* schools," should be a certificated teacher selected from one of the training institutions in the United Kingdom. This qualification was abolished in 1863. The last certificated teacher sent from England, was found unfit, and resigned. During the administrations of Sir William Stevenson and Mr. Seymour, commodious school buildings were erected. These were unhappily destroyed in the fire of 1863, and the school has since been conducted in a less convenient building. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the central schools have continued to supply a fair education to a large number of children. There were, in 1867, 88 boys, 90 girls, and 136 infants in the central schools. The infant school was added in 1855, in order that the elder children might be more carefully attended to. The cost to the Colony of maintaining these schools was 620*l.*, so that the charge for the education of each child therein averaged 1*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* a year.

27. Besides maintaining the central schools, the board of education gave grants in aid to five Roman Catholic and four Wesleyan schools. The entire number of children in these nine schools is stated to be 437 boys and 252 girls, making a total of 689 pupils. The grants amounted in all to 362*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.*, being at the rate of 10*s.* 6*d.* a year for each child.

28. There are also nine private schools not receiving any aid from the Government, the total number of pupils in which was 163.

29. There are six Protestant Sunday schools, with an aggregate of 616 pupils.

30. Adding together the 314 pupils in the central schools, the 689 in the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan, and the 163 in the private schools, we have a total of 1,116 children receiving instruction, besides those in the Sunday schools, who cannot be reckoned, because many of them also attend the week-day schools.

Imports and Exports.

31. The imports into the Colony in 1867 were valued at 190,495*l.* 4*s.*, being an increase of 21,461*l.* 16*s.* over the value of the imports of 1866.

32. The exports show a very serious deficiency, being only valued at 186,269*l.* 8*s.*, as against 277,155*l.* 16*s.* in 1866, showing a decline of 90,886*l.* 8*s.*

33. There was a decrease in the quantities of most of the articles exported, except specie, in which there was an increase of 50,494 dollars, equal, at the colonial rate of 4*s.* the dollar, to 10,098*l.* 16*s.*

34. The decrease in the quantities of articles exported to the neighbouring republics may perhaps in some measure be accounted for by the check given to the transit trade by the recent legislation adverted to in my remarks upon the Supply Act, under the head of legislation.

35. There has been a large decrease in the export of mahogany and logwood. For a century and a half these two articles have formed the staple export of the Colony, and the extent to which the trade has declined is apparent from the following table, contrasting the exports of 1867 with those of the 10 preceding years:—

Years.	Mahogany exported.	Logwood exported.
	Feet.	Tons.
1857 - -	7,267,369	6,681
1858 - -	6,275,374	5,034
1859 - -	5,436,014	1,502
1860 - -	8,089,966	6,845
1861 - -	8,656,533	7,000
1862 - -	8,885,163	7,802
1863 - -	6,196,470	8,471
1864 - -	7,134,897	15,238
1865 - -	5,240,120	7,352
1866 - -	5,167,167	8,036
Total of the 10 years -	68,349,073	73,961
Yearly average - -	6,834,907	7,396
Exports in 1867 - -	4,155,926	4,528
Decline in 1867 - -	2,678,981	2,868

showing that the exports both of mahogany and logwood in 1867 were considerably more than a third *less* than the average exports of the last 10 years.

36. Much of this sudden decrease is no doubt due to the incursions of the Indians, which caused the withdrawal of the mahogany gangs from the infested district; and with the restoration of tranquillity the trade may fairly be expected to be recuperated to the extent at least of the decline caused by this accidental interruption.

37. But mahogany and logwood cutting must necessarily come to an end, sooner or later, with the exhaustion of the natural forests; and though the end is not yet, the colonists have done well to turn their attention to the cultivation of the lands which, in their wild state, no longer yield a profit. The progress which has hitherto been made is very small. Sugar is the principal article of cultivation, and after supplying the consumption of the Colony the first exportation was made in 1862. The following table shows the gradual progress in the succeeding five years:—

1862 - - -	397,176	pounds.
1863 - -	451,966	„
1864 - - -	694,231	„
1865 - -	478,865	„
1866 - - -	1,336,496	„
1867 - -	1,218,560	„

Many obstacles have retarded the progress of the nascent cultivation; the want of labour, the want of experience, the want at the proper time of sufficient machinery, and the want of proper buildings. Everything had to be begun from the very beginning; but many of the obstacles have been surmounted, and I think the reports for the next few years will show a rapid increase.

Agriculture.

38. The information given under this head in the Blue Book is very scanty for want of the necessary statistics. The total acreage of cultivated land is estimated to be 5,000 acres, and the area planted in sugar cane to be 3,000. I shall endeavour to procure accurate information on this head next year.

39. The produce of sugar was 868 tons, of which 324 tons were retained for consumption in the Colony, and 544 tons were exported. The produce of rum was 53,714 gallons, of which 48,900 gallons were retained, and 4,800 gallons were exported.

Grants of Land.

40. 490 acres of land were sold in 12 lots in 1867. Ten of these lots averaged five acres each, and the other two contained together 440 acres.

41. The total sum paid into the Crown fund for the purchase of land was 177*l.* 15*s.*, and a further sum of 457*l.* 4*s.* was received for the lease and rental of Crown lands, making the total land revenue for the year 634*l.* 19*s.*

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42. The large grant of land known as the "Icacos Grant" is included in the Blue Book. This grant was made by Lieutenant-Governor Austin to Mr. Putnam and four other gentlemen, natives of the United States, but naturalized in Honduras. It includes all the land from the sea-coast on the east to the frontiers of Guatemala on the west, between the Monkey River and the parallel of 16° 33″ on the north and Deep River and the parallel of 16° 20″ on the south. The area of this tract of land is not expressed in the grant, but is probably about 300,000 acres, being more than 40 miles of longitude by 13 of latitude. The purchase money of this tract of land is 100,000 dollars, or 20,000*l.*, payable in ten equal annual instalments in the years 1873 to 1882, both inclusive. The grantees are bound "to locate and settle" on the granted lands 50 families within two years, and 200 families within five years. The Government is bound to expend three fourths of the purchase money in making public improvements within the granted district. These are the principal points in the grant.

43. In reference to the tenure of land in Honduras generally, I beg to refer to my Despatch No. 39. of the 6th of March last.

Gaols and Prisoners.

44. There is one gaol in Belize, the construction of which is very satisfactory, as far as the building itself is concerned. The great defect is the want of any properly enclosed yard, which renders it practicable for any prisoner to escape when he desires to do so. The gaol is placed under the entire control of a board denominated "the Gaol and Discipline Board." A Bill to abolish this board was sent down to the House of Assembly by my predecessor, Lieut.-Governor Austin, in August 1867, but proceeded no farther than the first reading. The principal defect in the management of the prisoners is in carrying out sentences of hard labour.

45. By two Acts passed in 1867 prisoners sentenced to hard labour may be removed from the Belize gaol to any other places duly appointed as prisons, and persons sentenced in the country to periods of imprisonment not exceeding three months may be confined in suitable buildings in the districts where they were sentenced. These Acts are still under review, and a report upon their operation must be deferred until next year.

Charitable Institutions.

46. I enclose a valuable report by the Public Medical Officer upon the Public Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Gaol Hospital, for the year 1867. In submitting this report to the Legislative Assembly I called the particular attention of the House to the necessity of providing, as early as possible, better accommodation for the pauper lunatics. Many of the minor inconveniences pointed out by the Medical Officer have been already remedied.

47. In accordance with the Colonial Regulations, § 283, I enclose a copy of an inventory of the furniture in the Government House, which I desired the Colonial Secretary to make on my assumption of the Government. I am unable to forward a report on the state of repair of the house, as the office of Colonial Engineer is at present vacant.

General Remarks.

48. The year 1867 will be remembered as an unfortuuate one in the annals of British Honduras. The year opened in the midst of the gloomy anxiety caused by the invasion of the Colony by the Mexican Indians, and the want of a sufficient force to repel them. The whole of the western district was deserted. The arrival of Governor Sir John Grant, with reinforcements, restored confidence, and the arduous but entirely successful campaign of Brigadier-General Harley resulted in the total expulsion of the Indians from our territory. The alarm which had been excited by the Indian raids did not, however, easily subside, and agriculture and wood-cutting were for a long time suspended in the Western district. The exports necessarily declined. In consequence of the large military expenditure, the Colonial finances became much embarassed. In the month of December, Asiatic cholera, which had for some time been prevalent in Central America, broke out with fatal malignity in the town of Belize, and speedily spread into the country. The year closed with intelligence of an irruption of Santa Cruz Indians into the country about Corosal, the issue of which no one at that time could foresee.

49. The progress and gradual cessation of the cholera, and the settlement of the difficulty with the Santa Cruz Indians, belong to the present year, and will be noticed in

the report on the Blue Book for 1868, which will also, I think, exhibit a great stride in the advancement of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B.,
&c. &c.

EXTRACT.

REPORT of the PUBLIC MEDICAL OFFICER on various Matters connected with his Professional Duties at the PUBLIC HOSPITAL, the LUNATIC ASYLUM, the GAOL HOSPITAL, and the POOR'S HOUSE, for the Year 1867.

SIR, Belize, March 1, 1868.

IN accordance with the instructions laid down in the Gaol and Asylums' Act, I have the honour to submit to the Honourable House of Assembly a return of the number of patients treated in the Public Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Gaol Hospital, for the year ending December 31st, 1867 ; and a report on various matters connected with my duties as Public Medical Officer.

I have, &c.,
A. HUNTER,
Public Medical Officer.

His Excellency J. R. Longden,
Lieutenant-Governor.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

In my report for the year 1865, I described this institution, and enumerated what I considered its chief defects, and although considerable improvements have been effected since that time, many alterations and additions require to be made before it can be rendered a comfortable hospital for the treatment of disease.

For the requirements of the Colony at the present time the accommodation provided by our Public Hospital is barely sufficient, and now that our population is steadily increasing in consequence of immigration from other countries, and natural development, it is but reasonable to anticipate a proportionate increase of applications for relief from this institution, and therefore consequent overcrowding. The wards are capable of containing 20 persons, giving each patient on an average 1,000 cubic feet of space, 200 feet under what is considered absolutely necessary for the treatment of a soldier in any building appropriated for hospital purposes. Fortunately during this year there have only been two or three occasions on which any overcrowding took place, but in previous years I have frequently seen the number of inmates double what the space could healthily accommodate.

The internal construction of the building prevents any arrangement being made for the classification of patients, the consequence is, that medical and surgical cases require to be treated in the same ward.

The accommodation for the keeper is also very insufficient, the room occupied by him and his wife (the nurse) being only about 10 feet square.

The position of the building is unexceptionable, being situated on the sea wall, and receiving the full influence of the sea breezes; but lately the collection of stones which formed an imperfect break-water have been washed away, and now, with a strong south-east wind, the water washes against the supports of the verandah, and when it recedes leaves quantities of vegetable matter, which becomes highly offensive when decomposed. The effluvia from this source has been greatly mitigated by picking up the sea weed, but it is impossible to remove it effectually unless by forming a perfect break water, in the same manner as that which protects the dead house, which might easily be done by the prisoners at a trifling cost.

The absence of a proper road to the dead house has been felt to be very inconvenient, and necessitates the carrying of the bodies of persons found drowned, and those for coroners' inquests, through the whole of the hospital grounds. This rather unseemly procedure could easily be remedied by repairing and widening the road which already exists between the property of the late Mr. Campbell and the hospital compound, and which was partly made about two years ago.

The fences surrounding the grounds are almost entirely useless, and, in consequence of their insecurity, animals of all descriptions force their way into the compound, and destroy every tree I plant.

In the annexed return of patients treated in the Public Hospital for this year, it will be perceived that there is a considerable decrease in the number of admissions in comparison to what is contained in the corresponding return for the year 1866, and that the reduction has to a great extent been due to the diminution of admissions for the measmatic diseases, febris intermittens and febris remittens. 180 patients (168 males and 12 females) were treated during the year ; and although this number does not materially differ from the average of years previous to 1865, yet, with the natural increase of population and the introduction of immigrants, we might have expected a proportionate increase of admissions. This marked decrease cannot be attributed to the Colony enjoying any immunity from sickness, or from an unusually healthy season ; on the contrary, the population generally have been unusually afflicted with the epidemic of cholera, and the quantity of rain which fell during the year, being nearly double what has fallen in previous years, added greatly to the sickness and mortality of the place. Of course it can easily be understood that this hospital being set aside for the treatment of ordinary diseases, the epidemic of cholera would scarcely affect the numbers of admissions, further than that it prevented many persons from coming to Belize who might have sought the aid of this institution.

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Out of the number of cases treated (180) there were 14 deaths, showing a mortality of something over seven per cent., slightly greater than that of last year, but still very much smaller than that of most English, Continental, and Colonial hospitals. Within these last few years the mortality has been very much smaller than in former years, although the number of admissions was not greater. Take the year 1862 for example. The number of admissions were 179, and there were 22 deaths, thus showing a mortality of 12·2 per cent. At that time that portion of the town west of Regent Street was well calculated to induce and foster diseases of the most virulent character; the streets and lanes were very narrow; the houses were closely packed together, filthy and overcrowded with people; and the grounds in many places inundated by the overflow of foul water from the old canal. Fevers of the most pernicious form were very frequent, and in many instances fatal results followed an attack. Since the fire of the early part of 1863, these pernicious fevers have almost entirely disappeared, except in the immediate vicinity of some parts of the old canal which have remained unfilled, and the health of the town has been immensely improved.

Several of the cases admitted this year were in a moribund condition, and others were in articulo mortis; two died under 12 hours after admission, and three under 24 hours. The cases of this description happened most frequently with pneumonia and phthisis; all the fatal cases were admitted with almost complete disorganization of the lungs. This unfortunate peculiarity in the mortality of the hospital is almost entirely due to the absence of medical aid in the country districts, where it is usual, when persons are attacked with a dangerous disease, for them to be sent to Belize, which they reach in a condition that precludes the possibility of a cure. Since the appointment of a surgeon to the northern district, the number of cases from that quarter has been reduced, but medical aid cannot be effectually afforded until a small hospital be established in Corosal, where serious cases can be conveniently treated. The case of the man with gunshot wound of the arm was rendered much more dangerous and difficult than it would have been had the operation been performed in Corosal, but there being no convenient place for after treatment, the only resource left was to send him to Belize. The southern district has furnished very many, I may say nearly half, of the admissions, in consequence of no medical man being stationed there. One case of injury to the leg, which in consequence of neglect will require amputation, was admitted towards the end of the year in a very precarious condition.

The evident remedy for this peculiarity in the mortality of the hospital would be (in addition to the hospital at Corosal), the appointment of a medical officer for the southern district, and the establishment of a small hospital at the most central settlement, say Allpines, the requirements of which, of itself, are quite sufficient to warrant the placing of a medical man there. A system of outdoor relief for the town of Belize would also tend to lessen the necessity of admitting many cases to whom a stay in hospital would be of no great advantage. Those people who are too indigent to procure the services of a private practitioner, but who do not wish to go into hospital, would gladly receive this timely medical aid, and it is but reasonable to suppose that if this were provided for them, disease would not be allowed to run on, and if recommended for hospital treatment would be in a condition that could be benefited by medicine. Of course such a system, unless well conducted, would be open to the greatest abuse.

On referring to the "Return of Occupations," it will be perceived that the class "Seamen" forms somewhat less than 25 per cent. of the total admissions into hospital, and it must be borne in mind that some of them belong to fishing boats and vessels that do not pay hospital dues to the Government. The cases coming from vessels arriving in the port seldom remain for a longer period than a week or ten days, and their diseases are very amenable to treatment. "Labourers" form over 50 per cent. of the total admissions, and the remaining 25 per cent. is formed by persons following trades which ought to enable them to be above the necessity for seeking relief from an institution which was originally intended for sailors belonging to vessels which pay hospital dues. These labourers and tradesmen, with a few exceptions, are generally sent from the estates in the country, and from mahogany works, where in all probability they have been following their usual avocations, even after being the subjects of disease; and when sent into hospital by their employers, their diseases have become chronic, and their health so much undermined that they require a lengthened stay in hospital, with good food, and often stimulants. In strict justice these persons should be made to pay for the benefits received, in the same manner as sailors hiring on board the coasting vessels, by a small sum being deducted from their wages for hospital dues; and thus the institution might become self-supporting, instead of being a great source of expense to the public.

The average number of days each patient remained in hospital was about 17, and although this shows an increase of five days over last year, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that the treatment of disease here is less tedious, and necessarily less expensive, than it is in hospitals in England, the Continent, and the Colonies, whose general average greatly exceed ours. The cause of the increase in the duration of each case was mainly due to the fact that we have had many chronic diseases, as phthisis, ulcers, &c., &c.

The average daily sick for the year was 10·8. On some occasions the hospital was nearly empty; on others it has been overcrowded.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Shortly after my appointment as medical officer to this establishment, I laid before the Honourable House of Assembly a report on its condition, and the arrangements provided for the treatment of those unhappy sufferers whose disease is looked upon by many as incurable, and urged on that body the extreme necessity of condemning a building which in every particular was so objectionable, and so deficient in every comfort and almost every convenience as an institution for the treatment of the insane.

The pecuniary condition of the Colony has hitherto been such as to prevent any expensive changes being made, and now, after a lapse of two years with the same state of things existing, I should again like to draw the attention of the House to the wants of these poor persons. During the last two years considerable improvement has been effected in the treatment of the inmates, and much has been done

by the kindness of the Chairman and members of the Gaol and Asylums' Board for the amelioration of their unfortunate position; but it is clear, that with a defective building to begin with, and an absence of every requisite for the treatment of mental diseases, the gratifying results of frequent recoveries cannot be anticipated.

The situation of the building is, as far as salubrity is concerned, unexceptionable, but, owing to the limited extent of ground which surrounds it, the most important means of curative treatment, viz., sufficiency of land for exercise and the indulgence in pleasing agricultural pursuits, are entirely lost; and the common relaxation of walking out doors is sometimes denied the inmates, in consequence of the low and wet state of the ground. The building itself was originally a private dwelling, and on being converted into an asylum for lunatics the necessary alterations were not effected, and the internal arrangements for the curative treatment of insanity were altogetger ignored. The lower story contains five wards and the upper story two, with a room for the keeper and his wife, The wards, or rather cells, are small, the largest being 11 feet in length, 7 feet in breadth, and 9 feet in height, thus giving about 700 feet cubic space, an amount very much below the average of asylums, and each has a grated window opening into a corridor which runs the whole length of the building in front. With the exception of this window, which is very small, there are no means of ventilation; there are no means by which the cells can be cleaned or kept clean, and there is no facility for the treatment of the inmates. Latterly the wood work of the roof and windows has become so dilapidated that no protection from the weather is afforded, and the rain permeates through the roof and floor into every cell.

As most of the patients confined in the asylum at present are old and confirmed cases, who have lost all sense of decency and cleanliness, it is most difficult to induce them to use the vessels provided for them, and the floors and walls being formed of wood, which absorbs the excreta, it is a matter of impossibility to prevent an unhealthy and offensive odour arising from the impregnated wood. It matters not how indefatigable the keeper may be with water and disinfectants, this offensive odour sometimes pervades the place. These cells, in consequence of the want of a day room or proper dormitory, form the eating and sleeping apartment of each patient.

There are no means by which the classification of patients can be effected. The raving and blasphemous maniac, who utters horrible language, shouts from morning to night, and makes fearful noises by beating the wooden partition, requires to be placed in the cell next to that of a quiet inoffensive lunatic, who sits melancholy in a corner, and speaks but rarely. Sleep, the great restorer of an exhansted nervous system, and which is so essential in the treatment of insanity, cannot be indulged in by the quiet and harmless lunatic so long as these maniacal patients cannot be placed in separate and appropriate cells. It was solely on account of this disadvantage that I treated three cases of insanity in the hospital rather than place them under circumstances which would have tended to exaggerate the affection.

There is no room or ward for the treatment of sick inmates, nor is there any convenient cell for the dangerous lunatic who may attempt to injure himself. The beneficial effects of a warm bath can only be administered by a tub, there being no proper bath house or lavatory. Hitherto comparatively little out-door exercise or amusement could be afforded to any of the patients so as to distract their attention from their hallucinations, in consequence of the insecurity of the fences making it an easy matter for an inmate to effect an escape, and thus endanger the safety of the neighbourhood. Moreover, in wet weather, the most part of the yard is covered with water, and in the dry fine months there is no protection in the way of shade from the scorching rays of the sun.

The accompanying return shows the number of inmates under treatment during the year. There was one admission, two discharges, and one death. The old woman who died had been an inmate for many years, and was a confirmed imbecile. During the prevalence of the epidemic of cholera she was the subject of a severe attack of the disease, and although she survived for five days, and had got over every symptom of cholera, she succumbed from sheer debility on the fifth day. This forms the first death in the asylum since it has been under my charge. The other cases are mostly old and confirmed imbeciles, who have been inmates for many years.

POOR'S HOUSE.

Since the removal of the paupers to the temporary establishment near to the cattle pen, a considerable and satisfactory change has taken place with regard to their sanitary condition. As a temporary substitute for the Poor's House, the building is perhaps better adapted to the requirements of such an institution than any other available; but as a permanent refuge for paupers it would be difficult to conceive a building more inadequate in its conveniences, and less fitted for this purpose. There is no doubt that over the old Poor's House it has the advantage of providing protection from the inclemencies of the weather. but beyond this it possesses very little more.

Very little disease of any description has shown itself during the year, and any mortality which may have occurred, has resulted from old age, and not from acute disease. During the epidemic of cholera, it is astonishing to relate that not a single case occurred among these poor old people, and I have no hesitation in saying, that this immunity was entirely due to the care and untiring assiduity of the matron, who on all occasions (night and day) was constantly administering such comforts as alone form the entire medical treatment of the old and infirm—nourishment and stimulants. The diet of the poor was altered, and some little extra comforts afforded on the cold and wet days frequently experienced during the epidemic of cholera.

In concluding my report there is one other subject to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable House, viz., the regulations for the quarantining of vessels arriving from infected ports.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Perhaps at no time has a greater necessity existed for an inquiry into the working of these regulations, and certainly no more favourable opportunity for discussion could have offered itself than the present one. Much dissatisfaction exists among the people generally in consequence of the want of security which the "Ship Quarantine Regulations," as contained in a small pamphlet issued by the Board of Health, affords; and it is but natural that the inhabitants should feel considerable alarm, knowing that there is likely to be a constant communication with a port that is pre-eminently noted for its frequent epidemics. Furthermore, it may be seen by referring to the "Regulations," that the protection of the town is almost solely entrusted to the pilots and customs officers, and that the release of a vessel from quarantine depends on the dictum of an irresponsible Board of Health (a quorum of which may be formed by non-professional members), that may ignore the opinion of the de facto health officer. Again, the inconveniences and hardships which passengers, subject to quarantine at this port, undergo, is likely to prevent many persons from coming to the Colony, and may prove detrimental to the interests of immigration. A system of quarantine which is ineffective is a hindrance to trade, and a source of dissatisfaction to the public; and to allow the pilot or the customs' officer the discriminating power of bringing a vessel to the quarantine ground or into harbour is certainly laying the measure open to abuse, and affording no protection to the community. An effective quarantine, on the other hand, while being a preventative to the introduction of epidemic disease, inflicts a great many hardships on those persons who arrive in vessels from infected ports, and, unless we can make those drawbacks as bearable as possible, we cannot hope for extensive immigration.

The obvious remedies for the evils attending quarantine would be the formation of a station where the passengers and crew of a vessel might be landed for a short time, their clothing, &c. well washed and aired, and the vessel properly cleansed, and where the sick, if any, might receive some degree of care and attention. One of the many kayes surrounding our harbour would answer the purpose admirably; and I am convinced that a three or four days' quarantine at such a station, where the passengers could be landed, the bedding and clothing disinfected, washed, and dried, and the vessel properly cleansed, would be productive of much less danger than the admission of a vessel after a 15 or 18 days' quarantine at the present quarantine ground, with all the clothing and bedding landed unwashed.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 58.)

MY LORD DUKE, King's House, Jamaica, July 16, 1868.

No. 41 of 16 June 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace a Despatch from the President of Turks Islands, transmitting the Blue Book of the Turks Islands for the year 1867, together with his report on it.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

(No. 41.)

Sir, Government House, Grand Turk, June 16, 1868.

I HAVE the honour, in forwarding to your Excellency the Blue Book of Turks and Caicos Islands for 1867, to submit the following short report upon its contents.

General Revenue.

2. The receipts for the year 1866 were from the following sources:—

	£	s.	d.
Imports	5,177	5	6
Exports	4,022	17	10
Light duties	932	16	0
Miscellaneous	1,446	15	2
	11,579	14	6

For the year 1867—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports - - -	- 4,909	1	3			
Exports - -	- 2,305	7	5			
Light duties - -	- 562	15	0			
Miscellaneous -	- 1,540	5	4			
				9,317	9	0
Or a decrease of - - -				- 2,262	5	6

in the year 1867, as compared with the year 1866, almost exclusively attributable to the falling off in the export of the staple production of the Colony, and lesser amount of tonnage necessarily employed.

	£	s.	d.
Thus, in 1866, the export and light duties amounted to	- 4,955	13	10
The same in 1867 to - - -	- 2,868	2	5
Showing a decrease of - - - -	- 2,087	11	5

in these two sources of revenue alone.

3. The general expenditure in 1867 was - -				- 10,392	13	1
and hurricane expenses repaid to the Crown fund -				- 2,160	3	6
In all - -				- 12,552	16	7

or an actual excess of expenditure over receipts of 3,235*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* To meet this excess there was in the hands of the Receiver General, on the 31st December 1866, a balance of 5,482*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, so that the sum of 2,247*l.* 12*s.* remained available on the 31st December 1867 for the services of the present year.

Crown Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
4. The Crown Revenue realized from ordinary sources - - - - -				2,395	9	11
From Hurricane Relief Committee -				200	0	0
And from Colonial Revenue - -				2,160	3	6
				4,755	13	5
Balance from 1866 -				216	19	1
				4,972	12	6
From which was expended for new works	- 1,518	15	7			
Repairs to public works - -	- 1,192	10	4			
Roads and bridges - -	- 255	10	8			
Water tanks and wells - -	- 59	0	8			
Miscellaneous services - -	- 1,485	3	3			
				4,511	0	6
Leaving a balance of - - -				461	12	0

for expenditure on public works and miscellaneous services during the year 1868.

5. In addition to the above expenditure on roads and bridges, a sum of 313*l.* 13*s.* was disbursed from the General Revenue principally for the benefit of the salt pond proprietors, and a further sum of 26*l.* 11*s.* from the same source for repairs at the light-house.

Public Works.

6. The public works accomplished during 1867 involved an expenditure of 3,606*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, the particulars of which have been transmitted to your Excellency in my Despatch No. 40 of 16th June instant, covering the annual report from the Colonial Surveyor and Inspector of Public Works. It will therefore be sufficient for the purposes of this report if I subjoin an abstract of the sums disbursed on the various public works during the years 1866 and 1867, showing a total expenditure of 6,744*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* during these two years.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ABSTRACT of the EXPENDITURE at GRAND TURK, SALT CAY, and COCKBURN HARBOUR during the Years 1866 and 1867.

PUBLIC WORKS.	1866.			1867.			
	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbor.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbor and Lorimers.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Constructing light keeper's dwelling.	446 12 2	—	—	22 13 2	—	—	469 5 4
Repairs to lighthouse -	111 3 7	—	—	29 8 8	—	—	140 12 3
New gaol;—collecting stone and building.	58 12 0	—	—	1,394 2 5	—	—	1,452 14 5
Repairs to enclosure wall	15 16 1	—	—	—	—	—	15 16 1
Enclosures to burial grounds	—	152 18 5	79 7 10	—	—	—	232 6 3
Repairs to Government House and outbuildings	313 0 5	—	—	725 8 5	—	—	1,038 8 10
Repairs to St. Thomas and St. John's Churches.	71 18 0	35 11 9	—	17 12 11	1 2 0	—	126 4 8
Repairs to Public Schools	129 18 7	7 12 1	2 2 11	—	—	4 8 6	144 2 1
Repairs to and painting Poor's Asylum.	155 1 3	—	—	422 11 3	—	—	577 12 6
Repairs to Quarantine Hospital.	47 16 10	—	—	—	—	—	47 16 10
Repairs to Powder Magazine and Armoury.	22 2 6	—	—	—	—	—	22 2 6
Repairs and painting Public Offices.	16 4 8	72 10 0	—	165 13 3	—	—	254 7 11
Roads; repairing, cleaning, and making.	725 10 3	283 16 8	172 15 8	487 2 4	24 10 2	57 11 2	1,751 6 3
Water tanks and wells -	69 0 1	9 5 7	39 3 6	32 0 3	14 8 5	12 12 0	176 9 10
Laying down mooring buoys	—	—	100 0 0	—		70 0 0	170 0 0
Building embankment and abutment.	—	—	—	—	102 0 0	—	102 0 0
Building latrines - -	—	—	—	—	—	23 1 0	23 1 0
Total - -	2,182 16 5	561 14 6	393 9 11	3,296 12 8	142 0 7	167 12 8	6,744 6 9

The following amounts have been paid in the last five years from the Crown Fund and the General Revenue towards the erection, maintenance, and repair of public works, and the liquidation of the public debt with interest.

Year.	General Revenue.		Crown Fund.		Totals.	
	Public Works.	Debt.	Public Works.	Debt.	Public Works.	Debt.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863	87 5 3	45 0 0	653 12 4	420 0 10½	740 17 6	465 0 10¼
1864	Nil.	945 0 0	1.910 1 2¾	803 2 6	1,910 1 2¾	1,748 2 6
1865	Nil.	2 1 11	1,527 12 8½	Nil.	1,527 12 8½	2 1 11
1866	106 14 6	Nil.	3,031 6 4	Nil.	3,138 0 10	Nil.
1867	340 4 0	Nil.	3,266 1 11	Nil.	3,606 5 11	Nil.
	534 3 8	992 1 11	10,388 14 6¼	1,223 3 4½	10,922 18 2¼	2,215 5 3½

	£ s. d.
Public Works - - - -	10,922 18 2¼
Debt - - - -	2,215 5 3½
Grand Total - - - -	13,138 3 5¾

7. I may here mention that the new gaol and the enclosure walls have been completed this year, and that the gaoler's dwelling, and accommodation for debtors and first-class misdemeanants, are now being proceeded with. The gaol is a superior building, and does credit to the architect, the contractor, and the Colony.

Legislation.

8. Ten Ordinances were passed by the Council, nine of which received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance.

Population.

9. The census of 1861 returned the population of these Islands at 4,372 souls. In 1864 a registration of births, deaths, and marriages was inaugurated; and from these returns it appears that during the last four years there were in the Colony 793 births, and during the same period 461 deaths, adding then 332 to the above census return for 1864–67, and an average of 249 for the three years, 1861–63, the present population should be about 4,953; but, in all probability, that number is less than the actual fact. The following returns afford all other necessary information.

BIRTHS.

District and Year.		Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Grand Turk.	1864	30	24	14	13	81
	1865	29	38	9	10	86
	1866	36	34	15	15	100
	1867	40	36	11	9	96
Salt Cay.	1864	11	7	3	6	27
	1865	12	9	7	3	31
	1866	10	11	3	4	28
	1867	11	10	6	3	30
East Caicos.	1864	6	9	2	2	12
	1865	13	5	2	2	22
	1866	6	12	2	7	27
	1867	15	7	3	6	31
Lower Caicos.	1864	14	22	7	12	55
	1865	21	20	2	4	47
	1866	13	21	4	10	48
	1867	34	15	6	10	65
	Totals -	301	280	96	116	793

DEATHS in 1867.

	Under 1 Year.		From 1 to 10 Years.		From 11 to 20 Years.		From 21 to 30 Years.		From 31 to 40 Years.		From 41 to 50 Years.		From 51 to 60 Years.		From 61 to 70 Years.		Upwards of 70 Years		Totals.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Grand Turk - - -	9	9	4	4	1	—	3	1	4	2	3	—	4	1	9	3	16	3	76
Salt Cay - - -	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	1	—	2	14
East Caicos - - -	3	3	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	12
Lower Caicos - -	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	6
Totals - - -	16	13	7	7	2	—	3	2	4	3	3	1	10	2	9	4	17	5	108

Causes of Death.

Dentition and infantile complaints	21
Consumption	7
Asthma	2
Natural decay from old age	16
Apoplexy	2
Stricture	1
Dysentery and bowel affections	14
Liver complaint	1
Rheumatism	3
Drowning	2
Injuries	3
Heart disease	3

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Dropsy	2
Scurvy	2
Fevers	13
Epilepsy	2
Unknown (or unassigned)	14
Total	108

MARRIAGES.

	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
Grand Turk	33	22	31	18
Salt Cay	6	3	5	2
East Caicos	4	4	1	3
Lower Caicos	14	5	2	4
Totals	57	34	39	27

Ecclesiastical Education.

10. These departments continued in 1867 very much what they were in 1866. The new boys', girls', and infants' schools are now in course of erection, and will be probably completed in the autumn of the present year, when it is hoped a new master and inspector will have been appointed to take charge of the model school at Grand Turk. The total attendance at the various schools was 168 boys and 135 girls, in all 303; and the fees collected amounted to 59*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*

Imports and Exports.

11. The subjoined tables show the increase and decrease of imports and exports to and from these Islands for the years 1866 and 1867.

IMPORTS FROM.

	1866.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
United Kingdom	9,535 6 8	14,302 6 1	4,766 19 5	—
British North America	16 18 4	—	—	16 18 4
British West Indies	6,194 1 3	2,431 3 7	—	3,762 17 8
Foreign West Indies	11,821 13 1	8,068 19 0	—	3,752 14 1
United States	28,376 14 11	27,254 9 1	—	1,122 5 10
Derelict	145 19 2	64 13 10	—	81 5 4
Totals £	56,090 13 5	52,121 11 7	4,766 19 5	8,736 1 3

Total decrease 3,967*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

EXPORTS TO.

	1866.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
United Kingdom	1,493 8 0	—	—	1,493 8 0
British North America	3,479 12 4	2,655 0 1	—	824 12 3
British West Indies	1,489 11 1	1,123 19 4	—	365 11 9
Spanish Honduras	32 8 8	10 16 4	—	21 12 4
Foreign West Indies	10,777 4 4	4,203 12 1	—	6,573 12 3
United States	37,038 0 5	23,318 18 7	—	13,719 1 10
Totals £	54,310 4 10	31,312 6 5	—	22,997 18 5

12. The quantity and value of the staple export of the Colony shipped during the past five years were respectively as follows:—

Year.	Bushels.	Value.
1863	1,434,230	21,578 5 6
1864	1,252,186	29,726 0 1
1865	1,251,344	26,841 0 11
1866	1,930,988	37,193 3 1
1867	1,094,528	24,644 13 4
	6,963,276	£139,983 2 11

Being an average annual quantity of 1,392,655 bushels salt, at an average value of of 27,996*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, or within a fraction of $4\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per bushel. And if we take the average quantity of the first four years at 1,467,187 bushels, value 28,834*l.*, it appears that the exportation of salt in 1867 fell short of that average by 372,659 bushels and 4,190*l.* value.

13. The trade, therefore, of the Colony was in an unsatisfactory condition during the past year, which, following immediately on the steps of the hurricane, must have pressed with singular hardship on the mercantile community. Large quantities of wrecked goods have also been introduced from St. Thomas at the close of last and the beginning of this year, so that the importation of dry goods will be probably limited in 1868. But the advent of these damaged goods is not an unmitigated evil, for very many poor people have thus been able to procure under-clothing and other articles of dress at much cheaper cost than fresh goods could have been purchased for; and as Messieurs Frith & Murphy, who have been engaged in the remunerative diving operations at St. Thomas, are the proprietors of the greater portion of East Harbour Salina, their success in their various undertakings to windward will unable them to introduce into this Colony the capital thus acquired, which I understand amounts to a large sum of money, and, in the formation of the railway and wharf at East Harbour, to eventually increase the value of their own property, to the advantage of the labourers there, and the benefit of the trade of the Colony.

Gaols and Prisoners.

14. The following returns exhibit, I am glad to report, a continuance in the diminution of crime in the Colony.

Return of convictions for the under-mentioned offences in the police court at Grand Turk for the years

	1866.	1867.
Assaults	50	40
Disturbances of the peace	60	47
Larcency	24	15
Obscene and profane language	7	5
Drunkenness	17	9
Abusive language	50	31
Malicious injury to property	4	2
Impeding constable in the execution of his duty	2	3
Allowing hogs to run at large	3	7
Gambling	4	3
Discharging fire-arms in public street	1	0
Breach of prison rules	1	0
Indecent exposure of person	2	2
Furious riding in streets	14	0
Seamen refusing to proceed on voyage	8	1
Deserting lawful wife and refusing to maintain children	0	3
Cruelty to animals	0	4
Obtaining goods under false pretences	3	1
Breach of revenue laws	1	0
Neglect of constables on duty	3	5
Unlawful washing in public wells	1	0
Breach of Liquor Ordinance	0	2
Obstructing highways	0	1
	255	181
Civil suits	77	69
Totals	332	250

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

From this return there appears to a diminution of about 30 per cent. in the criminal cases and 15 per cent. in civil suits in favour of 1867, when compared with the previous year.

The number of committals from the Supreme Court in 1867 was	14
From the police court	32
Debtors	2
Total	48

The aggregate number of days during which all prisoners committed from the Supreme Court and the Police Court were confined in gaol, and the amounts expended for their maintenance, were as follows :—

Year.	Number of Days.	Rate per Diem.	Amount.
		d.	£ *s.* *d.*
1866	1794	$9\frac{3}{8}$	70 1 5
1867	3713	$5\frac{7}{8}$	90 17 $9\frac{3}{4}$

The greatest number of prisoners confined in gaol at any one time during the year 1867, was 18, and those in confinement at Michaelmas 1867 numbered 17.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

15. The new Almshouse is admirably situated on one of the most healthy spots in this Island. It is well adapted for the purpose to which it is devoted, shelter and comfort to the declining years of the aged or helpless, and is judiciously managed by a board of three gentlemen, annually appointed by the President for that purpose. A matron, cook, male and female nurses, and the physician, are the permanent staff, and additional hight nurses are employed when necessary.

The Hospital is small, constructed of wood, and contains only three apartments; but Dr. Bascome reports it sufficiently commodious for the cases which are there admitted for treatment, and it is also situated on a salubrious site.

16. The Public Library, which I found comprised 426 volumes, locked in two book cases, and seldom or never used, I endeavoured to popularize in 1864. At the close of last year the number of volumes had increased to 931, and, what was of more consequence, they had been read. They are classified as follows :—

	Volumes.
History	123
Biography	107
Travels	114
Fiction	388
General information	199
Total	931

In addition to which, the principal quarterly and monthly periodicals, and ten English, one French, and one American newspapers are supplied to the reading room.

17. The Social and Moral Institute begins, I hope, to bear good fruit. From the last quarterly report I have obtained the information that there were during that period—

Houses visited	187
Inmates, male 432, female 465	897
Books lent	307
Tracts distributed	449
Children at Sabbath school	243

The benefit conferred by this Institute on the poor and labouring population may be gathered from a few extracts from the reports handed in by the district visitors.

"The district visitor is most kindly welcomed by all, and great thankfulness expressed for the books lent. Many who would attend a place of worship, and send their children to Sabbath school, are prevented from want of clothing, the little they possess being required to purchase food, and rebuild their houses destroyed by the hurricane."

"I am glad to report a better state of affairs with respect to the juvenile portion of my district. I think I may safely estimate about 85 per cent. attend Sabbath school."

"The people seem to appreciate the efforts that are being now made by the Institute for their instruction."

"I feel quite sure that by the continued efforts of this Institute in supplying books and tracts of a moral and religious tendency, and a little patience and perseverance exercised by the district visitors, a large amount of good will be effected amongst our fellow colonists, who stand so much in need of instruction, and the efforts we are now making will eventually be crowned with success."

"Sabbath afternoons, hitherto spent in idleness, and too frequently in the indulgence of vicious habits, are now employed in either reading the books lent or else listening to their being read to them."

The Library now contains about 400 volumes, obtained from the British and Foreign Bible Society, which, while strictly religious and moral in their tendency, contain a vast amount of general information, conveyed in the simplest form possible.

This Institution was at its inception and in its constitution thoroughly catholic, and I had the active support of the then ministers and people of all denominations. For no assigned reason, the subscriptions and attendance at the quarterly meetings have been gradually withdrawn, until, with the honourable exception of two Wesleyans and one Baptist, the society is now wholly supported by members of the Church of England. The benefits of the Institute are still, however, extended to all classes resident in the town and suburbs of Grand Turk, without distinction of colour or creed.

18. Missionary Association, supported by a subscription of 3*d.* weekly from the members of St. Thomas' Church.—The advantages of the Association are extended to all classes and creeds in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Island of St. Domingo, and the shipping, both English and foreign, visiting the Colony for commercial purposes. The Bibles, Testaments, educational and other books, are sold at one third, one half, and one fourth less than their original cost, and always distributed gratuitously where there is sufficient reason to believe that, although desired, the parties applying have no means of paying for them. By this means 860 Bibles, 548 Testaments, 1,006 volumes of a religious, devotional, moral, and educational nature, and of general information, with a large number of undenominational tracts, have been distributed throughout the Colony, among the shipping and in St. Domingo, and donations of 10*l.* sent to each of the Bible and Tract Societies.

19. Besides the above, the auxiliary of the "Christian Knowledge Society" has remitted to the parent society 85*l.*, and has sold and distributed, without respect to creed, 115 Bibles, 57 Testaments, 84 Common Prayer Books, and 370 miscellaneous books, exhibiting a large increase in comparison with former years.

20. I confess to being thus particular with respect to these two last institutions because it has of late become a too common cry that the Episcopalian church is neglectful of her duties in the West Indies, so that, while I carefully avoid in my present position all partisanship, and have for many years contributed what I could to other denominations, I yet feel it due to the rector of this parish to record, for the information of the Government, what measure of success has followed the untiring efforts that clergyman is constantly making for the welfare of the whole community, without the slightest wish to detract from any successful labour undertaken by other denominations for the religious and moral improvement of the people.

21. Singularly free as these Islands generally are from dangerous fevers, we were fatally visited last year with a malignant fever of a typhoid type, which claimed 13 victims, amongst whom were five or six adults and children who had recently arrived in the Colony from England and America. In other respects the health of the colonists was good; but I begin to realize the truth of the general remark, that the excessive dryness of this climate appears to sap the natural moisture from the human frame, and that people, even well enured to a tropical climate, after a few years residence here, require the needful change to a moister climate to recover the happy tone necessary to good health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR,
President.

His Excellency Sir J. P. Grant,
Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 135.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Demerara, August 31, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the British Guiana Blue Book for the year 1867, and to make the following report thereon.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for the year 1867 was 275,209*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, against 304,816*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* in 1866. There was a considerable deficiency in the import duties, owing to stagnation in trade, which is generally attributed to the commercial disasters of 1866. The expenditure was 307,061*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, against 310,877*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* in 1866. I may observe that the average revenue and expenditure for the last six years has been about 295,000*l.*

3. *Public Debt.*

The aggregate amount of the debt in 1867 was 660,037*l.* 10*s.* against 660,645*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* in 1866. Of this debt, about 250,000*l.* is secured by planters' notes given in reimbursement of immigration expenses. The bonds given by the Colony, and which are much sought after in England, where they are payable, are redeemable five years after date, but are generally renewed. The notes of the planters are on the whole paid with great punctuality, and it seldom becomes necessary to take legal proceedings for their recovery. No loss has accrued to the Colony by these loans, which have been a great accommodation to the planters. I have stated the amount of this floating debt at about 250,000*l.*, and I may add that this is less by 12,000*l.* than it was five years ago. Another portion of the debt, amounting to nearly 100,000*l.*, has been lent to the mayor and town council of Georgetown, for the establishment of waterworks, for the promotion of works conducive to health, and other public improvements. This arrangement was made simply because it has been found that there is no difficulty in disposing of the direct bonds of the Colony, whereas the local corporation is not known in the money market, and would have difficulty in borrowing on any terms. The corporation debt is amply and satisfactorily secured. The remaining portion of the debt is 316,866*l.* 13*s*, 4*d.*, about 12,000*l.* of which has been lent to some of the villages for improvements of a permanent character. The principal part of this debt (250,000*l.*) has been guaranteed by the Imperial Government, but a sinking fund amounting to 152,764*l.* has been already invested in consols, and this portion of the debt will be completely extinguished in the year 1874. The statement in the Blue Book for 1867 shows that the debt of 170,000*l.* to the Imperial Government had been reduced to 4,000*l.*, which has been paid off this year. The remaining portion of the debt is held chiefly, if not entirely, in the Colony, and is little over 60,000*l.*, to meet which there is an invested sinking fund of about 15,000*l.* I trust that it will appear from this statement that the public debt need not cause the least uneasiness.

4. *Public Works.*

Sea defences on the east of the city, and in front of the Eve Leary Barracks, are rapidly approaching completion. It has been found absolutely necessary to construct defences of a similar character on the west side of the Demerara River, and on the sea coast, to protect public property of considerable value. The expenditure on works in 1867 was about 25,000*l.*, and much the same as in the preceding year.

5. *Legislation.*

Seven Ordinances were enacted during the year 1867, three of which were ordinary Tax Ordinances. The others were, No. 4, providing for the management of the Lunatic Asylum; No. 5, amending the Ordinance prohibiting Sunday trading; No. 6, amending the law relating to licences; and No. 7, an Ordinance incorporating the British Guiana Museum Company.

6. *Education.*

The report of the Superintendent of Schools is on the whole satisfactory. There is an increase of nine schools over the number receiving aid in 1866. The Church of England Schools are in in number 54; the Church of Scotland, 28; the Roman Catholic, four; Wesleyan, 23; and London Missionaries, 18. The children on the books numbered respectively, Church of England, 6,338; Church of Scotland, 2,104; Roman Catholic, 401; Wesleyans, 2,654; and London Missionaries, 1,899. The average attendance is low, but not materially different as regards the religious denominations. The chief cause of bad attendance is doubtless the weather. The lowest average attendance was at the Wesleyan Schools, viz., 51½ per cent. on the number in the books; Church of England, 54½; Church of Scotland, 56; and Roman Catholic and London Missionaries, 58 per cent.

7. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports in 1867 fell rather short of 1,500,000*l.*, and the exports were valued at 2,565,777*l* 1*s.* 0*d.* The value of sugar, rum, and molasses was 2,187,215*l* 1*s.* The other exports were chiefly articles imported in bond for consumption in other Colonies, such as rice, flour, pork, &c., and products of the Colony of minor importance. The exports to the United Kingdom were 1,824,340*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.*, or nearly four fifths of the whole. It may however be proper to observe, that the export trade to the United States is steadily on the increase.

8. *Gaols and Prisons.*

I have great satisfaction in reporting that considerable improvements have been made in the gaols, by providing increased accommodation for prisoners, and by improving the ventilation of the cells. There is still much to be done; but the digest of the information contained in the answers to the queries as to the state of colonial prisons has stimulated and materially assisted the efforts of those whose duty it is to press the importance of these improvements on the Colonial Legislature.

9. *Concluding Remarks.*

British Guiana being essentially a sugar-producing Colony, it may be interesting to notice a few facts illustrative of its recent progress. In the year 1857 the exports of sugar were 58,766 hhds., of rum 26,734 puncheons, and of molasses 7,105 casks. In 1867 they were, of sugar 82,726 hhds. (a short crop, that of 1866, having been 91,580), of rum 25,345 puncheons, and of molasses 24,033 casks. In 1857 the immigrant population on the sugar estates was 16,826, and in 1867 42,366. The increase of the immigrant population has been in 10 years 151·80 per cent., but it may be proper to observe that much the greatest increase has taken place in the county of Demerara, in which it has been 218·13 per cent., while in Essequebo it has been 98·55, and in Berbice 88·85. The superintendence of these immigrant labourers is a constant source of anxiety, but I have great satisfaction in expressing my conviction that no just ground of complaint as to their treatment will be found to exist. The bounty system affords an admirable test of the satisfaction of the immigrants with their employers. That system was first introduced in this Colony, and I doubt whether it prevails elsewhere. It owes its origin to the indenture fee of $50 which the planter was required to pay towards the cost of introducing the immigrants. As the term of industrial residence is limited to five years, while the immigrant is only entitled to a back passage after a residence of 10 years, it is obviously desirable to induce the acclimated and skilled labourers to continue on the estates, and it is clearly more advantageous to the planter to pay a bounty in cash to a skilled labourer than to give the same sum to the Government for one newly imported. It is, however, manifest, that as the re-indenture on bounty is quite voluntary, no immigrant would enter into a new engagement if he had any real ground of dissatisfaction. During the first half-year of 1867, 2,765 immigrants took bounty to the amount of $137,075. Of these 485 were Chinese, who are not entitled to a back passage, while of the Indian immigrants several hundred postponed their claim for back passages in order to take bounty and continue as labourers. Every estate having indentured immigrants is visited twice a year by the sub-immigration agents, and twice by the Inspector-General of Estates Hospitals, who reports at great length both on the hospitals and dwellings of the immigrants. These reports undergo a careful consideration by the Immigration Agent General, and by the Governor, who take prompt measures to correct all abuses. An opinion is rather prevalent that the

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sugar cultivation of British Guiana is carried on almost exclusively by immigrant labourers. This is a great mistake. A vast amount of the heaviest work on the estates is performed by the Creoles of African origin, and I do not believe that the Creoles have ever been in such satisfactory relations with their employers as during the last few years. It will indeed be fortunate for the planting interest if the labour market should continue as at present. Twenty years ago the employers were liable to constant strikes, which of course took place at those periods when it was absolutely neeessary that the crop should be reaped and manufactured. At present the indentured labourers on each estate are in number sufficient to prevent any serious calamity from occurring should the Creole labourers abandon their work, and the consequence is that strikes have entirely ceased. The proportion of Creole labourers to immigrants varies very much, but nevertheless there are data on which an approximate estimate may be based. The cost of labour per hogshead of sugar may be assumed with tolerable certainty, and the average earnings of immigrant labourers are likewise ascertainable with sufficient precision for a rough calculation. On such data, which I admit cannot be relied on with accuracy, I estimate that there must be at least 20,000 Creole labourers working on the sugar estates. Many of these labourers are small proprietors of lots in the villages, which have long been, and which I fear will long continue to be, a source of much anxiety to the Executive Government. The great drawback to the villages on the east coast of the county of Demerara, which is the most important sugar district, is the difficulty of obtaining proper drainage. There is hardly an estate in that district which has not been compelled to procure draining engines, and the villagers appear at length to be thoroughly sensible of the importance of following the example which has been set them by the proprietors of sugar estates. I do not exaggerate when I state that well-drained land would yield a rental of four times as much as that which is insufficiently drained. I have obtained the sanction of the Combined Court for loans for the erection of draining engines in some of the principal villages on the east coast, and I feel assured that the result will be most satisfactory. I have no reason to doubt that the condition of all classes of the people is on the whole highly satisfactory, and that the Colony furnishes conclusive proof that under a system of free trade and free labour sugar cultivation can be profitably carried on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 116.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Nassau, July 11, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report, to accompany the Blue Book for the year 1867.

I have, &c.
RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT.

It was anticipated by many that the destructive effects of the hurricane which swept the group of the Bahamas in October 1866 would be severely felt in the following year, and would hinder the advancement of the Colony, to which various circumstances, referred to in my previous reports, appeared before that disastrous occurrence likely to

contribute. Yet some hope was entertained that the deluge of rain which accompanied the storm would, by stimulating vegetation and increasing the fertility of the soil, neutralize to some degree the losses caused by the wind and floods. This hope has not been realized. After the hurricane came a drought, or rather repeated droughts, throughout the year, which kept large numbers of the outislanders in a state of indigence and want, so as to render it necessary to continue to assist them with supplies of food for some time after the season at which, if their new crops had been spared, they would have been able to maintain themselves.

2. The crops of pine apples were reduced by one half; some say two thirds. The exportation was reduced, both in quantity and value, by more than one half. The orchards of oranges and other fruit trees were seriously injured; in some places entirely uprooted; in others the trees were broken and shattered. The exportation was only one fifth of that of 1865, the year before the hurricane. The sponges were disturbed and deteriorated in quality by the agitation of the sea. Notwithstanding the new demand for the common kind of sponge for the manufacture of mattresses and the stuffing of furniture, introduced into the United States, the weight of sponge exported in 1867 fell short of that of the preceding year by nearly one fifth.

3. The only article of domestic production of which there was a notable increase was salt. The exportation of this was nearly threefold in quantity and value, although the principal salt producing island, Inagua, was visited by so disastrous a flood of rain in the month of November as to destroy all the salt not in store, equal to the third of the whole exportation of the year. This fall was of an extraordinary nature. Its parallel had never been witnessed in the Island. It is recorded by persons living in substantial houses that they feared that the mass of water falling on their roofs would crush them in, and that they imagined the rush of water dashing against the walls and doors of their dwellings must have been caused by a tidal wave, driven inland from the sea, like those which have lately visited several of the West Indian Islands and Hawaii.

4. Under such circumstances it was to be expected that the exportation and revenue of the year would suffer; and such proved to be the case; but the value of imports was greater by 11 per cent., viz.:

	1866.	1867.
	£	£
Imports - - -	328,622	365,316
Exports, native produce - -	77,604	71,117
Do., other - - -	184,372	156,131
Revenue - - - -	50,216	46,826

5. At the same time the necessity for repairing the damage done to public buildings by the hurricane, of giving some aid, although very limited, to the population deprived of food and of the means of obtaining it by that visitation, and for completing certain expensive works begun in a season of financial prosperity, rendered it necessary to supplement the revenue by loans to the extent of 31,153*l.* The debt before the civil war, which was paid off in 1863–4, was 43,786*l.*

Population.

6. A decreased mortality, although accompanied by a small decrease in the number of births, indicates an increase in the population, which has not been materially affected during the year by immigration or other extraordinary changes.

The number of deaths had decreased from 924 to 739; the number of births from 1,275 to 1,202. The latter may be attributed to the extra mortality in 1866 caused by the hurricane of that year, and to the impoverishment of the population in the following year, arising from the same cause.

7. The Board of Health report that there has been a complete exemption from extraordinary disease of every description during the year. The Board's report supplies for the first time reports from the New Providence Asylum, the Dispensary, and the Quarantine Establishment. The number of patients admitted into the former during the year was 153; the number remaining at the close of the year was 43 sick paupers, 23 lunatics, 2 lepers, and 1 pauper. In the Outislands 170 paupers received relief in food and clothing at a cost of 636*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* At the Public Dispensary 988 persons received medicines. The cost of these, and of supplies furnished to public institutions in Nassau and the Outislands, was 287*l.*

8. Five vessels were put into quarantine during the year, of which two were vessels of war. One was for small pox, three for yellow fever, and one for bilious remittent

BAHAMAS. fever. In the latter case 39 men were attacked. The numbers on board the other vessels varied from one to three. Out of 46 cases on board of the five vessels put into quarantine one only died. It was a case of yellow fever.

Education.

9. Owing to the absence on leave and subsequent resignation of the late Inspector of Schools, the usual detailed report has not been presented. But it is stated by the Board that the schools were not long interrupted by the hurricane of 1866, that most of the schoolhouses have been restored, and that the number of scholars on the books at the close of the year had slightly increased, viz., from 2,877 to 2,900.

Crime and Pauperism.

10. The number of criminals arraigned in the General Court has varied little since last year, viz.:—

	1866.	1867.
Convicted	46	45
Acquitted	15	18

11. But the number of convictions in the Police Court has increased, and the large number of females, noticed and explained in last year's report, has been still greater, viz.:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1866 - -	742	386	1,128
1867 - -	839	447	1,216

12. The Police Magistrate attributes the increase to the mischief caused by the dancing saloons in Grant's Town, which was probably aggravated by the presence of several vessels of war, British and Foreign, that visited the port in the early part of last year. It is expected that the present year will show a great decrease.

13. The expenditure for the maintenance of the New Providence Asylum in Nasssau has been somewhat less than in 1866; for the maintenance of paupers in the Outislands somewhat greater, viz.,—

	1866.	1867.
In New Providence -	2,106	1,931
Outislands - -	552	636
Total -	2,658	2,567

Legislation of 1867.

14. Two sessions of the Legislature were held in the year. The first commenced on the 14th February and ended on the 13th May. The second was held in October, and lasted from the 14th to the 21st, the object of this special meeting being to pass an Act to authorize the Government to effect a new contract for the conveyance of the English mails between Nassau and New York, the contract for this service made by the Imperial Government with Messrs. Cunard and Co. being about to expire at the close of the year, and Her Majesty's Government having charged the Colony with the responsibility of making the new contract.

15. The other principal Acts passed during the year, all in the first session, were:—

1. "To encourage trade by the remission of certain port charges in certain cases."—Cap. 19.
2. "To regulate wharfage in Nassau."—Cap. 20.
3. "To abolish anchorage duties."—Cap. 5.
4. "To establish postal communication with Northern Outislands."—Cap. 18.
5. "To regulate public markets in New Providence."—Cap. 12.
6. "To regulate employment of lumber measures."—Cap. 11.
7. "To regulate Equity practice in General Court."—Cap 13.

The Postal Contract Act is Cap. No. 1 of 1867-8.

Land and Agriculture.

16. The preparation and issue of grants of land have increased, but various circumstances arose in the course of the year to delay both. In 1866 the grants were 84, and the area granted 1,477½ acres (including one grant of 1,000 acres of forest in Andros). In 1867 the grants were 134, and the area was 932½ acres.

17. The unfavourable results of the fruit crops, and the frequency of droughts, which have destroyed or diminished the yield of grain and vegetables, have already been noticed. The yield of cotton has suffered no less, and the growers of it have been so much discouraged by their repeated disappointments, and by the low price offered for their produce, that many of them have abandoned the cultivation. On the other hand, the growers of pineapples are sanguine of an increased demand, and are extending their operations in localities where the soil is suitable and not exhausted. The Island of St. Salvador promises to yield a largely increased supply of this esteemed fruit.

Imports and Exports.

18. The value of imports was 11 per cent. higher than in 1866; but the increase was mainly owing to exceptional transactions arising out of a reduction of duties in the neighbouring Island of Cuba, which led to the shipment of goods lying there in bond to Nassau, for the purpose of being re-shipped to the same ports for re-entry at the reduced rates. The real increase was not more than 3 per cent.; but it is satisfactory, as showing that the legitimate importations of the present as well as of the last year, which have been nearly a third greater than those of the years immediately preceding the late civil war in the United States, have not been influenced by transactions arising out of the settlement of the blockade running business.

19. As regards the trade with each country, the imports from the United States exhibit an increase of 9 per cent. The increase from the Colonies of Spain has been explained in the preceding paragraph.

20. The exportations, on the other hand, exhibit a decrease, on the gross amount of 13 per cent., and of 9 per cent. on native produce. The falling off in fruit and sponge has been already noticed; that of cotton was 29 per cent., or nearly one third. Salt, however, exhibited a very large increase, nearly threefold, viz.: from 6,879*l.* to 18,464*l.*

Wrecks.

21. As the number of wrecks in 1866 was exceptional, owing to the hurricane in October of that year, the number in 1867 cannot properly be compared with it, and as a detailed report has been submitted in separate despatches (Nos. 41 and 42 of 1st March last) it is only necessary here to notice that the number and value of wrecks was small, viz.: 29 wrecks and 21 casualties. The proportion of American is not so large as in 1866, but double that of 1864–5. The value of wrecked goods saved and landed exceeded that of 1866, chiefly owing to two wrecks of large cotton laden vessels.

22. A return of salvage in such cases, framed in accordance with the provisions of the Licensed Vessels Act of 1866, shows that the amount awarded in 30 cases was 38,016*l.*, or an average of 1,267*l.* each vessel. But if two vessels be excepted, in which the amount was respectively 11,019*l.* and 5,073*l.*, the average of the remainder was only 782*l.* The above amount was nearly equally divided between the owners and crews of the licensed vessels employed in saving the property.

23. The returns of the number and tonnage of vessels licensed for wrecking show a decrease in the number of vessels, and an increase in the tonnage. The former may be attributed partly to the destruction of such vessels in the hurricane of 1866, but mainly, as confirmed by the latter fact, to the extended operation of the Act of 1866, of which evidence will be found in the number of licences taken out at Inagua and Long Cay, where no large vessels are kept, which has been reduced from 35 to 4. The total number of vessels has decreased from 161 to 120, while the tonnage has increased from 2,984 to 3,122. The number of men licensed has decreased by one third. Harbour Island is an exception to the general rule; there the number of vessels and men, and the tonnage of the former, have all increased. This may be attributable to the occurrence of the wreck of a large vessel in that neighbourhood towards the close of the year.

Vessels and Men licensed for Wrecking.

	1866.			1867.		
	No.	Tonnage.	Men.	No.	Tonnage.	Men.
New Providence - -	89	2,096	927	87	2,240	644
Abaco - - - -	30	314	248	15	282	136
Eleuthera - - -	1	37	5	—	—	2
Harbour Island - - -	5	211	54	14	475	139
Long Island - - -	1	18	—	—	—	—
Long Cay - - -	16	165	126	3	100	85
Inagua - - - -	19	143	142	1	25	43
Total - - -	161	2,984	1,502	120	3,122	1,049

Shipping.

24. The comparison of the Shipping Returns in the last two years has been so much affected by the hurricane of 1866, and the consequent arrival of vessels in distress, and their departure after repair, many in 1867, that it is only necessary to notice that, though the number of vessels arriving has slightly decreased, the aggregate tonnage has increased. In the departures, owing to the cause above mentioned, there has been a considerable increase.

		No.	Tons.
Arrivals	1866 - - -	504	62,062
	1867 - - -	467	65,399
Departures	1866 - - -	502	59,888
	1867 - - -	528	69,438

25. The noticeable points in the direction of the trade, as compared with 1866, is an increase in the number and tonnage of vessels to and from England, and a decrease in the same in the trade between the American States and Nassau, but an increase in the number and tonnage of vessels from the Out islands to that country, accounted for by the large increase in the exportation of salt, which explains also an increase in the proportion of American vessels employed in that branch of the colonial trade. The destruction of shipping by the hurricane sufficiently accounts for a considerable falling off in the number and tonnage of Colonial vessels employed in the trade of last year.

26. The difference in the trade of the principal emporiums of trade is shown in the following abstract, confirming the above observations with regard to the influences of the increased trade in salt.

	1866.		1867.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrived :				
Nassau - - -	302	48,033	261	40,923
Inagua - - -	66	4,673	118	16,434
Other Out islands - -	136	9,356	88	8,042
Total - - -	504	62,062	467	65,399
Departed :				
Nassau - - -	308	45,842	271	40,027
Inagua - - -	67	4,314	129	15,367
Other Out islands - -	127	9,732	128	14,044
Total - - -	502	59,888	528	69,438

27. There has been an increase in the number and tonnage of vessels built and registered in the Bahamas during the last year, as compared with 1866; 21 vessels of 302 tons have been built, against 13 vessels of 159 tons in 1866; and 31 vessels of 1,922 tons have been registered, against 29 vessels of 8,231 tons. The decrease in the tonnage of the latter is owing to the cessation of the system of transferring foreign and other large vessels to the Colonial Register. The total number of vessels on that register on 31st December 1867 was 522, measuring 35,347 tons.

28. There has been a slight increase in the number and tonnage of American vessels registered as British in the past year, viz., 6 vessels of 970 tons, against 2 vessels of 532 tons in 1866.

Trade.

29. *Exchange.*—The rate on London for Bank bills stood at 4 °/₀ during the first four months of the year, and then declined to 3 °/₀. Commissariat drafts commanded a higher rate, of about a quarter to one half per cent.

30. *Public Bank.*—The amount of business done by the Bank was not greatly reduced in 1867, as compared with the preceding year, but it is still three fourths greater than it was in the year preceding the civil war, viz.:—

	Receipts.	Payments.
	£	£
1859 - -	457,552	436,678
1860 - -	456,582	455,225
1866 - -	795,604	889,823
1867 - -	778,110	829,195

31. The excess of payments over receipts in the last two years indicates the reduction in the cash balances, being at the rate of 94,219*l.* in 1866, and 51,085*l.* in 1867, and the proportion in the rate of reduction being nearly the same, or nearly one half annually.

32. The specie remaining on the 31st December last consisted of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Gold, British - - - -	3,900	0	0
„ American - - -	2,919	7	6
„ Spanish - - - -	7,148	4	6
Silver, American and British	20,504	8	11
Total - -	£34,472	0	11

33. *Savings Bank.*—It is satisfactory to observe a slight advance in the business of this institution, although the amount of deposits has been reduced. The latter may, however, be owing to the withdrawal of funds for investment in Government debentures, which bear a higher rate of interest. The number of accounts opened in 1867 was 21, against 3 in 1866; of accounts closed, 17 and 6 respectively. The deposits amounted to 314*l.*, the withdrawals to 840*l.* The number of depositors has increased from 143 to 147; the amount of deposits has decreased from 4,147*l.* to 3,620*l.*

34. *Post Office.*—The Post Office Returns show that the correspondence is about the same as in 1866, with a small increase in the number of interinsular letters, newspapers, and money orders. Her Majesty's Government having decided that upon the expiration of the contract with Messrs. Cunard and Company for conveying the mails between England and New York, and Nassau and the latter place, which terminated at the close of 1867, the Colonial Government should make provision for the latter portion of the service, a contract was made with the Atlantic Mail Steam Packet Company, whose steamers ply weekly between New York and Havana, to call every fourth week at Nassau, coming and going, which will maintain the service on the same footing as heretofore, but at nearly double the expense both to the Colonial and Imperial Governments.

35. *Bankruptcies and actions for debt.*—One bankruptcy and one insolvency were declared during the year. There has been a continuous and large decrease in the business of both the General Court and the Court of Common Pleas, which must have seriously affected the bar, especially as the number of its members has been increased during the year, and is still increasing.

	1866.	1867.
General Court:		
Writs issued - - -	132	106
Civil actions tried - -	63	14
Court of Common Pleas:		
Claims for debt - -	770	586
Trover and detinue, &c. -	30	5

BAHAMAS.

36. *Prices and wages.*—Except for a few weeks after the hurricane, when there was an extraordinary demand for labour in the building and shipwrights' trades, wages have continued to decline. Prices have necessarily kept on the same level.

37. *Public market, Nassau.*—The receipts exhibit a further decline from 624*l.* to 560*l.* No material change has taken place in the supplies from the Out islands. The importation of cattle from Cuba has led to the decrease of the Spanish gold in the Bank, which has, at the present date, become almost exhausted.

Revenue and Expenditure.

38. The revenue of the year has continued to exhibit a falling off, viz, from 52,266*l.* in 1866 to 46,826*l.* On the other hand, the expenditure, including the cost of restoring public buildings destroyed or injured by the hurricane, has amounted to 80,372*l.* Of this, 12,872*l.* was spent upon the work of restoration, for which provision was made by a loan of 15,000*l.* The excess on the ordinary expenditure was provided for by the issue of debentures to the extent of 16,153*l.* Of this excess, 8,250*l.* was on account of the new prison.

Meteorology.

39. It is to be regretted that the instruments used by the military authorities, which were destroyed by the hurricane in 1866, were not replaced in time to obtain observations for the past year.

Conclusion.

40. This year has been one of hardship and trial for a large portion of the community, aggravated by inconvenience and losses caused by the hurricane; but, looking to the prospects of the salt, pineapple, and sponge trades, I ought to be able to report favourably of the hopes for the ensuing year. My experience, however, has led me not to be too sanguine. The report of Mr. Johnstone, who was employed under your Grace's authority to visit the principal Out islands, with the view of ascertaining their capabilities for the growth of cotton, gives a painful account of their decadency from their early prosperity, of the annually progressive exhaustion of the soil, and the consequent increasing poverty of their occupants. The frequent alternations of droughts and heavy rains, with the renewed apprehension of visits from hurricanes, are drawbacks, against which the pauperised and unassisted petty proprietors on the Out islands have to struggle, with reduced means and relaxing energies. The diminution in the number and value of wrecks has deprived numbers of their former sources of employment and profit. It has created a jealousy against the existing laws which control the wrecking business; but the decrease is owing mainly to other circumstances, over which these laws have no influence, and which neither Colonial nor any other legislation can affect. Of these, it is only necessary to name three; the diversion of trade from the southern ports of the United States, the erection of lighthouses by the Imperial Government throughout the Colony, and the increasing use of steam for the carriage of valuable cargoes.

RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

Government House,
1st July 1868.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 150.)

MY LORD DUKE, Trinidad, September 19, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Trinidad for the year 1867.

It would be presumptuous in me to offer remarks on the state of the Colony, founded on my own judgment, having been in the administration of the Government since the end of June only.

I shall therefore limit my report to a brief review of the several returns of which the Blue Book is composed.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The actual revenue of 1867, not including "items of account" which amounted to 15,895*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.*, and which cannot be strictly called revenue, was 199,917*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*, and the actual expenditure, also excluding the items of account, which were 15,811*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, was 198,903*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.*, being less than the revenue by 1,013*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

The revenue of 1866 exceeded that of 1867 by 1,119*l.* 3*s.* 10½*d.*, and the expenditure of 1866 was less by 20,145*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.* than that of 1867.

Public Debts.

The amount of the original debts of the Colony was 331,875*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, contracted during the years from 1848 to 1866. At the end of 1867 this amount had been reduced by 97,850*l.*, not including the sums invested by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury on account of the sinking fund to meet the loan of 125,000*l.*, raised by debentures for immigration purposes, which had reached on the 31st December last the sum of 76,636*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

Public Works.

The cost of the public works to be undertaken during the year was estimated at 15,547*l.* 18*s.* 10¾*d.* The amount expended on works which were finished was 5,364*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, and on account of those which at the end of the year were unfinished 9,008*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.*, making a total expenditure of 14,639*l.* 19*s.* 5½*d.*

Ordinances and Proclamations.

Thirty-three Ordinances were passed in 1867. The most important were—

No. 3. "For the treatment of immigrants in certified hospitals."

No. 9. "For the relief of destitute persons within the rural districts of the Island."

No. 24. "For the appointment of a Surveyor General."

No. 26. "With regard to the imprisonment of misdemeanants."

Of the eight proclamations promulgated, those which appear to me to have reference to subjects of some importance were—

1. "For constituting the ward of Montserrat."
2. "For licensing the Irios Convict Depôt as a penal establishment."

Pensions.

There are five recipients of pensions payable out of the revenues of the Colony, the collective amount of which is 1,080*l.* The amount of the emoluments paid to the persons receiving pensions was when last employed in the public service 2,023*l.* 10*s.*

Consuls.

The only change which appears to have taken place among the consuls was in the United States Consulate, Mr. Fitt, Acting Consul, having been succeeded by Mr. Orville Allen.

Population.

The population by the census taken in 1861 was 84,438 persons. It is estimated that the population at the end of 1867, including 14,947 immigrants introduced between 1861 and 1867, was not much over 100,000 souls. This appears almost incredible, but no reliable information can be obtained with respect to the population of the Island until a new census is taken.

The deaths in 1867 exceeded the births by 506. This excess of mortality occurred principally in the towns of Port of Spain and San Fernando, while in the country districts, with few exceptions, the births outnumbered the deaths.

Savings Banks, &c.

There are two institutions of this kind in the Colony; one in Port of Spain and one in San Fernando. The number of depositors was 325 and 136 respectively.

One Friendly Society exists in Port of Spain.

TRINIDAD.

Imports amd Exports.

The value of imports and exports for the last three years was as follows :—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1865 -	810,347	4	3 -	820,109	2	10
1866 -	878,357	11	11 -	1,022,338	15	0
1867 -	858,846	16	5 -	1,085,890	3	7

Remarks.

The natural increase in the population, which, owing to their exemption from many of the hardships and privations which weigh heavily on the labouring classes in Europe, ought to be considerable, is I believe materially kept back from the same cause which produces the same effect in many of the West India Colonies, that is to say, from the sacrifice of infant life in consequence I believe of neglect on the part of parents. A higher state of civilization, and a strict system of registration, might probably to some extent produce a change for the better.

I am informed that the conduct of the native labouring population was generally orderly; a few disturbances of no great importance occurred in Conva among the Indian immigrant labourers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Governor MUNDY to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 808.)

MY LORD DUKE, Windward Islands, Barbados, October 12, 1867.

MY late arrival in Barbados precluded my attempting to make the usual annual report on the condition and prospects of the Island during the year 1867. I therefore requested Mr. Gore, the Colonial Secretary, to do so, and I have now the honour to transmit it to your Grace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 1006.)

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, October 7, 1868.

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions, I beg leave to submit the following report upon the Blue Book of 1867, for the information of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and in doing so must crave some indulgence on the ground of my short acquaintance with the affairs of Barbados, to which Colony I was only transferred in the spring of last year.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

No difference of any importance was made between the tariff of 1867 and that of the preceding year, with the exception of the repeal of the extra duty of 25 per cent. on imports, which accounts for the decrease of 7,381*l.* in customs receipts. There was a further falling off of 1,967*l.* on rum duties, owing to the high prices obtained for molasses, which had the effect of checking distillation. On the other hand will be found an increase of 5,813*l.* under the head of "Militia Tax;" so that upon the whole transactions of the year, as compared with those of 1866, there is only a falling off of 5,588*l.* The expenditure

shows an increase during the same period of 3,944*l.*, principally upon items of Militia, Police, and Gaols. No changes were made in the scales of fees payable at the several public offices.

3. *Local Revenues.*

As compared with the local taxation of 1866, there was a slight increase in that of last year. The land tax varied from 5½*d.* in St. Peter's Parish to 1*s.* 5½*d.* in St. Andrew's, while in St. Michael's where the city of Bridgetown is situated, it was as high as 3*s.* 3*d.* The usual grant of 5,450*l.* in aid of the maintenance of public roads, together with a nearly equal amount raised under the road tax, was expended on the highways; but as these funds are administered by commissioners who are independent of the local vestries they do not appear in the statements included under the head of local expenditure.

4. *Public Debt.*

At the close of 1867 the net amount of the Public Debt was only 410*l.*, and there was a sum of 10,811*l.* to the credit of the Colony in balances at the Treasury and at the Colonial Bank.

5. *Military Expenditure.*

During 1867 3,473*l.* was paid to the men of the yeomanry cavalry for attendance at monthly parades; but as the opposition in the House of Aassembly to the maintenance of this local force has during the last two or three years been gaining strength, the Government was unable to obtain any supplies in 1867 for drilling, clothing, or arming the men; so that the force, which in 1865 appeared as likely to become "highly useful and well trained," has recently been described in the last inspection report as "absolutely useless as a military body." The artillery and rifle corps no longer turn out for drill, and have, I fear, disappeared from all but the Adjutant General's returns.

92,000*l.* was expended in the Colony in the maintenance of the garrison from Imperial funds.

6. *Public Works.*

The works at the Swing Bridge are again suspended; and matters, already unsatisfactory enough at the commencement of the year, were brought to a climax in October by the unexpected production of several outstanding claims against the public for liabilities incurred without the sanction of the Governor and Council. Upon this discovery, Mr. Marshall, the Superintendent of Public Works, hastily resigned, since which no appointment has been made to the vacancy, and every thing connected with the department of Public Works has been at a standstill.

7. *Legislation.*

The only measure worthy of notice passed in the earlier portion of the legislative session of 1867–8 was that for increasing the accommodation at the General Hospital, by the erection of a separate ward for ulcer patients. During the latter part of the session Acts were passed for assimilating the criminal laws of Barbados to the statutes of the mother country relating to larcenies, to injuries to property, to forgeries, to the coin, to offences against the person, and for consolidating the Acts of the Island with regard to accessories to and abettors of indictable offences. Ordinances were also enacted declaring the law in cases of escheat, and for the erection of public offices (provision for the cost of these public buildings being made in the latter Act by the imposition of 20 per cent. in addition to the ordinary customs duties). A Contagious Diseases Act, framed upon that now in operation in several of the principal garrison towns at home, is only awaiting the construction of the requisite hospital to be brought into operation. Two important resolutions were also assented to by the Legislature, upon reports from joint committees of the Council and House of Assembly; the first pledging the Colony to provide a sum not exceeding 3,575*l.* as its contribution towards the contract of 1869 for the conveyance of the West Indian Mails; the second granting, upon certain conditions, of 2,000*l.* per annum, for 10 years, in aid of the International and Ocean Telegraph Company, who offer to extend the communication already existing between New York and Havanna, and to connect Barbados with Demerara and the neighbouring Islands. This is the third proposal of the kind which has been favourably entertained by the Legislature here; but neither the company of 1857 nor that of 1863 were able to raise the necessary capital for carrying out these projected undertakings.

BARBADOS.

8. *Franchise.*

The number of registered electors at the General Elections in 1867 was 1,435, but as in many parishes no contest took place it is not on record what number of voters took part in returning members to the House of Assembly.

9. *Pension.*

The benefits of a Pension Fund are at present confined to the members of the Police Force. There are five persons to whom small annuities are paid (under special enactments) in consideration of accidents or on account of long service.

10. *Miscellaneous Returns.*

Those relating to the affairs of the Savings Bank are of a satisfactory nature, the amount deposited having risen from 2,556*l.* in 1863 to 4,516*l.* in 1867, whilst the depositors have increased during that period from 373 to 775.

11. *Imports and Exports.*

The estimated value by the Custom House authorities of Imports is 989,503*l.*, and of Exports is 1,245,501*l.*, showing a slight increase upon both items as compared with those of 1866.

By far the greater proportion of the trade with foreign nations is monopolized by the United States, whence the Island derives its supplies of breadstuffs, corn, meal, &c.

12. *Shipping.*

Were there any facilities afforded for coaling or repairing vessels, these returns, on the whole satisfactory, would no doubt exhibit still increasing figures.

13. *Agriculture.*

The quantity of sugar exported in 1867 fell short of that of 1866 by about 4,000 hogsheads, but the crop of the latter year was considerably beyond the average production of the Island.

14. *Education.*

The grant for educational purposes which in 1850 was voted at 3,000*l.* is now 6,000*l.*, and the number of schools have proportionately increased, insomuch so that the Inspector has not now time during the 12 months to hold examinations of all the schools receiving Government aid. From the report for 1867 it appears that 64 primary schools were visited, and there was considerable progress both in the numbers of attendants and in those of the scholars who obtained passes for proficiency in the higher subjects of examintion, and the Inspector attributes these satisfactory results to increased faithfulness in the teaching, and to the working of the system of granting graduated certificates of efficiency to teachers. Good middle schools are, however, very much wanted. A table is annexed to the return exhibiting the order of merit of the schools examined, "which it is hoped will promote a rivalry in excellence between the several masters." On the whole the report is of a satisfactory nature.

15. *General Remarks.*

In view of the very full report on the Blue Book of 1866 made by your Excellency's predecessor, which not only exhausted the statistics of the five preceding years, but which trenched even somewhat upon those of 1867, I have not felt called upon to notice all the important headings of the returns; nor will I venture upon any general remarks, as my local knowledge is confined to an experience of a few months; and yet I cannot refrain from observing with regret that no attempt is made to take advantage of the great natural facilities which its geographical position affords for making the harbour of Bridgetown one of the greatest importance amongst ports of call. While our neighbours in Demerara, the French Islands and St. Thomas, are offering daily increasing accommodation to shipping, by the construction of docks, slips, and wharves, Barbados does not possess even a coaling hulk, alongside of which passing steamers can obtain supplies, and vessels, which otherwise in the prosecution of their voyages would naturally frequent

Carlysle Bay, are driven to seek elsewhere those facilities for coaling and repairs which for want of the necessary harbour improvements are denied them in this Colony. BARBADOS.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Major R. M. Mundy, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS FREDK. GORE,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Governor MUNDY to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 563.)

MY LORD DUKE, Windward Islands, Barbados, August 11, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of St. Vincent for 1867, with the usual annual report from the Lieutenant-Governor on the state of the Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 485.)

SIR, Government House, St. Vincent, July 29th, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the annual Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1867, with the following report:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

In my last year's report I gave a statement showing the amount of revenue for the past 10 years, and the different sources from whence derived. The proceedings of the year now reported on in this respect will show a fair proportionate average, the general revenue being 18,385*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; to this being added the sum of 3,168*l.* 9*s.*, a new impost collected under the Troops Tax Act, together with the difference of the arrears of revenue and expenditure of the previous year, amounting to 880*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, there remained 22,434*l.* 5*s.* available for the services of the year.

The expenditure amounted to 21,599*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a balance to be carried forward of 835*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, but there were outstanding claims against this to the extent of 35*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, which will bring the real balance to 799*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* Upon an examination of the comparative statement of expenditure, it would appear as if there was an increase under this head of 1,317*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* On the other hand, in this amount is included the sum of 3,113*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* expended on account of the preparations for the reception of the troops, which appears for the first time as an item of expenditure, and if omitted from the general statement it will be seen that the ordinary expenditure, instead of being apparently in excess, is in reality 1,796*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* less than that of the previous year.

LOCAL REVENUES.

Immigration Fund.

To meet the heavy outlay of 6,925*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* incurred on account of an importation of 477 Coolies by the ship "Newcastle," it was necessary to contract a loan for 2,000*l.* with the Colonial Bank, of which, however, 1,000*l.* were repaid during the year. The account shows a balance to its credit of 418*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, subject, however, to the remaining moiety of the loan.

ST. VINCENT.

Military Expenditure.

Of 3,545*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* incurred under this head, the sum of 3,113*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* is on account of repairs to the Barracks, for the reception of a company of Imperial troops; the balance, 432*l.* 10*d.*, being for the support of the local forces.

Public Works.

Pending the temporary pressure upon the revenue caused by the heavy outlay upon the Barracks at Fort Charlotte, all public works, with the exception of those of an unavoidable and a trifling nature, and the necessary repairs to the roads, were suspended during the year.

Legislation.

As the Legislature may be said to have been in a state of abeyance during the year, in consequence of the anticipated change in the form of the constitution, the return under the head of Legislation is barren in the extreme. The Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1866, was passed with a view of meeting certain objections raised by Her Majesty's Government to the Act for simplifying the Legislature of St. Vincent, passed in the latter part of 1866, and to which I adverted at length in my report accompanying the Blue Book for that year. The present Act provides that the Legislature shall consist of 12 members; three ex-officio; three to be nominated by the Governor; the President to be appointed by the Governor with a double or casting vote and six to be elected by the people.

The Act to repeal sundry Acts, and to amend the law relating to the election of representatives to serve in the Legislative Assembly, was rendered necessary in consequence of the alteration of the constitution by the Acts of 1866 and 1867, and makes provision for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly under the new form of Government.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. George Trafford entered upon the duties of his office as Chief Justice on the 7th January, the office having become vacant in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Sharpe.

Population.

The report of the Registrar is appended, from which it appears that the total number of births in the year was 1,604, and of deaths 1,092, showing a gain to the population during the year of 512. A comparative statement of the births and deaths for the past three years is also given, which shows a total gain of 1,207 to the population during that period. The proportion of illegitimate births is not quite so large as in the last year, but, I regret to say, reaches the high figure of 61 per cent. of the total births.

Miscellaneous numerical Returns.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank which was established at the commencement of the year was at the end of the year 83; but, with very few exceptions, the parties availing themselves of the advantages afforded by the institution were of a class different to that for which it was originally designed. It may perhaps be premature, at this early period of its existence, to pronounce a positive opinion as to whether the objects originally intended will be ultimately attained.

The total number of immigrants in the Island on the 31st December were 695 Coolies, 16 Portuguese, and 36 Africans. On the 1st June the ship "Newcastle" arrived from Calcutta with 477 Coolie immigrants.

Education.

A comparison, as between the years 1866 and 1867, of the number of schools and scholars, shows that there were 43 schools in 1867 against 41 in 1866, and 2,836 scholars against 2,735, being an increase of two schools and 101 scholars. Of the schools, 27, with 1,647 scholars, were in connexion with the Church of England; 13 schools, with 1,100 scholars, in connexion with the Wesleyan denomination; and three schools and 89 scholars in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports for the year was 126,410*l.*, being a decrease of 31,743*l.* upon the imports of the previous year. Of these, 46,889*l.* were from the United Kingdom, 67,893*l.* from the British Colonies, and 11,628*l.* from foreign countries.

The exceptional causes, to which in my last report I attributed the increase in the value of the imports for that year, and which was as nearly as possible equivalent to the amount of the decrease in the present year, would tend to show that the return is not in reality below the ordinary average.

The value of the exports was 194,972*l.*, being 799*l.* in excess of that of 1866, an unusually favourable year, the value of exports to the United Kingdom being 179,829*l.*

The sugar exported during the year amounted to 11,145 hhds., being 160 hhds. in excess of the previous year, which in itself showed an increase of 30 per cent. over the exports of previous years, thus clearly indicating that the sudden advance in the exports of 1866 was not owing solely to the results of a favourable season, but may rather be considered as an indication of steadily progressive cultivation. Of rum, 1,731 puncheons were exported, showing a decrease of 95 puncheons, of molasses 1,209 puncheons, against 1,063 in the previous year, showing an increase of 146 puncheons.

Though the export of arrowroot came up to the large amount of 12,441 barrels, it fell short by upwards of 2,000 barrels of the export of the previous year. This decrease is owing to a cessation on the part of the small growers in cultivating the products which to them has never yielded a profitable return. There is a falling off in the export of cocoa, which shows 15,660 lbs., against 26,640 lbs. in the previous year. The same remark applies to cotton, the returns being 68,768 lbs., against 82,600 lbs. in 1866.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There were 24 committals for trial before the Court of Grand Sessions during the year, and 14 convictions, being identical with the result of the previous year. 365 prisoners were sent to gaol by the magistrates; of them, however, 137 were debtors, thus reducing the number of the general committals to 228.

General.

The Registrar General in his report says that during the year the health of the Colony has been fair; no disease of an epidemic nature having manifested itself. The season was also propitious for agricultural purposes, the total rainfall being 122 inches, which is above the usual average. Of the atmospheric disturbances that were attended with such deplorable results at St. Thomas and the Colonies adjacent thereto, the only indications that made themselves apparent here were in the shape of a tidal wave which rose in the harbour of Bequia, one of the Grenadine Islands, to the height of ten feet, sweeping away several houses situated in the neighbourhood of the beach, but without any loss of life. As this event was coincident in date with one of a similar but much more serious nature that occurred at St. Thomas it is to be presumed that the origin of both may be attributed to the same cause. The violent hurricane that occurred at St. Thomas on the 28th October was entirely unfelt in this Island. Public tranquillity was preserved during the year; and though I cannot speak in such favourable terms of the general commercial prosperity of the Colony as it was my good fortune to do when alluding particularly to the successful results that attended agricultural enterprise, still I do not consider that any class of the community has serious cause for complaint.

I have, &c.

The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
St. Vincent, August 12, 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to place before your Excellency the abstracts of the births and deaths in this Colony for the third year of the operation of "The Births and Deaths Registration Act."

2. The births in this year amount to 1604; the deaths to 1092; showing a gain to the population during the year of 512.

ST. VINCENT.

The following is a comparative statement of the births and deaths for the last three years:

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Gain to Population.	Gain to Population in each District.				
				Kingstown.	Calliaqua.	Windward.	Leeward.	Grenadines.
1865	1,456	1,296	160	*Nil* *	45	53	36	31
1866	1,594	1,059	535	73	142	163	88	69
1867	1,604	1,092	512	80	129	128	122	53
Total Gain -			1,207	148	316	344	246	153
Equal in the three years to an increase per 1,000 living of about -				16	41	46	47	65

* Decrease of five.

3. The number of illegitimate births is not quite so large as in the last year, being 61 per cent. of the total births. The per-centage in each year and in each district appears as follows:

Year.	Proportion of Illegitimate Births.					
	Of total Births.	Of Births in Kingstown District.	Of Births in Calliaqua District.	Of Births in Windward District.	Of Births in Leeward District.	Of Births in Grenadine District.
1865	·612	·637	·592	·615	·611	·581
1866	·626	·606	·594	·666	·637	·640
1867	·611	·575	·613	·634	·642	·576

4. The proportion of births in the past year to the population of the Colony is ·049, or four 9-10ths per cent.; the proportion of deaths is ·033 or three 3-10ths per cent. The proportions for each year and in each district during the last three years are shown in the following tables:

BIRTHS.

Year.	Proportion to Population of Colony.	Proportion to Population of each District.				
		Kingstown.	Calliaqua.	Windward.	Leeward.	Grenadines.
1865	·0458	·0437	·0465	·0448	·0488	·0482
1866	·0499	·0412	·0525	·0550	·0525	·0540
1867	·0494	·0439	·0479	·0522	·0571	·0495

DEATHS.

Year.	Proportion to Population of Colony.	Proportion to Population of each District.				
		Kingstown.	Calliaqua.	Windward.	Leeward.	Grenadines.
1865	·0408	·0443	·0407	·0376	·0418	·0346
1866	·0331	·0334	.0340	·0330	·0356	·0242
1867	·0336	·0353	·0314	·0355	·0340	·0272

5. The birth-rate and the death-rate amongst the white population in the past three years is stated in the annexed table; and by this it will be seen that there is a small but steady yearly decline in the numbers of this class.

Year.	Birth-rate in White Population.	Death-rate in White Population.
1865	·0391	·0443
1866	·0423	·0501
1867	·0293	·0366

6. The deaths in the last year amongst infants under one year of age are ·231, or 23, 1-10th, per cent. of the total deaths; and the still-births are ·087, or 8, 7-10ths, per cent. It will be seen by the subjoined tables that there has been a slight decrease in each in the deaths amongst children under 15 years of age; also that in the past year there has been a decrease in the per-centage of still-births. It will be observed, also, that the mortality in the three years amongst infants under one year of age is less in the town district than in the country districts. It may be a question whether this can reasonably be attributed to the facilities afforded in the town district for medical aid. In the country districts the residents have many advantages to health over those in the town; they are less crowded; they have purer air; they follow more healthy occupations; their food is equally good, is more abundant, and is more easily obtained. The negro of the town is possessed of the same nature and characteristics as he of the country; he is as indolent, as wanting in affection to his offspring, and as indisposed to exertion in its behalf. Give equal credit to the indolent and thoughtless resident of the country as to him of the town for a desire to procure for his child medical attendance, what facilities has the one in comparison with the other? For miles around the one seeks a doctor in vain; within a small area the other has a choice of two.

1865.

Proportion of Deaths of Children under 15 Years of Age.

Ages.	Proportion to Total Deaths.	To Deaths in Kingstown District.	To Deaths in Calliaqua District.	To Deaths in Windward District.	To Deaths in Leeward District.	To Deaths in Grenadine District.
Under One Year -	·263	·215	·289	·263	·259	·417
(Still Births) -	·071					
1 and under 3 -	·146	·152	·151	·137	·171	·063
3 „ „ 5 -	·057	·055	·061	·050	·074	·025
5 „ „ 15 -	·060	·043	·048	·086	·069	·075

1866.

Proportion of Deaths of Children under 15 Years of Age.

Ages.	Proportion to Total Deaths.	To Deaths in Kingstown. District.	To Deaths in Calliaqua District.	To Deaths in Windward District.	To Deaths in Leeward District.	To Deaths in Grenadine District.
Under One Year -	·217	·212	·229	·200	·216	·268
(Still Births) -	·103					
1 and under 3 -	·155	·109	·145	·187	·232	·071
3 „ „ 5 -	·051	·048	·064	·049	·037	·053
5 „ „ 15 -	·036	·067	·084	·036	·064	·053

1867.

Proportion of Deaths of Children under 15 Years of Age.

Ages.	Proportion to Total Deaths.	To Deaths in Kingstown District.	To Deaths in Calliaqua District.	To Deaths in Windward District.	To Deaths in Leeward District.	To Deaths in Grenadine District.
Under One Year -	·231	·207	·231	·226	·272	·261
(Still Births) -	·087					
1 and under 3 -	·164	·129	·215	·189	·150	·090
3 „ „ 5 -	·048	·042	·052	·055	·044	·046
5 „ „ 15 -	·047	·048	·028	·040	·094	·015

Proportion of Still Births to Total Births.

Years.	Per-centage to Births.
1865	·063
1866	·069
1867	·059

7. During the past year the health of the Colony has been fair, but diarrhœa has prevailed in some parts, and has caused the increase in the year's death rate. In 1865 fever prevailed more than usual, and there was quite an epidemic of whooping cough. From these two causes the number of deaths in that year was considerably swelled, fevers causing 14, 5-10ths per cent., and lung affections 13, 7-10ths per cent. of the deaths. I have shown in the following tables the per-centage of deaths in each year from those diseases which are most prevalent and fatal to life, and the variation, in the different seasons of the mortality. The beginning and fall of the year are the most unhealthy seasons.

Proportion of Deaths from most prevalent Causes.

Years.	Fevers.	Dropsy, &c.	Tubercular Diseases.	Diseases of Brain, Nerves, &c.	Diseases of Lungs and other Organs of Respiration.	Diseases of Stomach, Liver, &c.	Premature Births, Debility, and Still Births.
1865	·145	·081	·054	·087	·137	·196	·089
1866	·126	·077	·064	·101	·050	·234	·133
1867	·109	·091	·071	·101	·015	·260	·106

Deaths during each quarter of the Year.

	1865.	1866.	1867.
30th September -	338	261	258
31st December -	386	301	282
31st March - -	302	221	290
30th June - -	270	276	262

8. In conclusion, I must remind your Excellency that such of the foregoing calculations as are based upon the supposed gross population of the Colony or of any of the districts thereof must be accepted only as approximate, for they are based as to the year 1865 on the census of 1861, without correction for increase or decrease, there having been no registration before that year, and no means, therefore, of correcting the census according to the annual changes in the population. The calculations for 1866 and 1867 are corrected for increase in accordance with the registration.

9. Supposing the population had increased in the three years from the taking of the census in 1861 to the commencement of the registration in 1864, in an equal ratio to the increase in the three years since 1864, there will have now been an addition of about 2,500 (or over 400 per annum) to the population. There has been scarcely any emigration of late years; therefore, add to the above increase by births the immigration during the six years, and the population of the Colony ought at present to be upwards of 35,000. It would be satisfactory to have this estimate verified by another census in this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE,
Colonial Secretary & Registrar General of Births and Deaths.

To his Excellency Lieut. Governor Berkeley, &c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MUNDY to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 502.)

MY LORD DUKE, Windward Islands, Barbados, June 27, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Grenada for 1867.

As I only returned to the government at the latter end of last year, I have requested the Colonial Secretary to make me a full report on the state of the Colony, which report I now forward.

I have, &c.
ROBERT M. MUNDY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 44.)

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, June 3, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867.

Revenue.

2. The total revenue collected during the year amounted to 19,983*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From customs	8,570	17	7
„ tonnage	764	7	8
„ excise	3,340	8	2
„ licences	1,893	5	9
Fees and fines	2,059	19	1
Post office	141	2	10
Assessed taxes, including medical rates	3,011	15	2
Miscellaneous	201	17	6
	19,983	13	9

3. The arrears of revenue for the previous year amounting to 4,886*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, with a loan of 1,000*l.* contracted for the repairs of the roads and bridges in the parish of St. Patrick which were damaged by the inundations in December of the year 1866, made the total available sum for the service of the year 1867 25,869*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

4. As compared with the previous year there is a decrease in the revenue of 1,156*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, arising principally in the customs duties and in the assessed taxes. The decrease in the customs is chiefly in the following articles, viz. :—

On flour, 781 barrels; rice, 41 tons; sperm and tallow candles, 7 tons; oats, 901 bushels; corn meal, 524 barrels; coffee, 1 ton; and black-pepper, 1¾ tons; and in the value on silks, linens, cottons, woollens, and plantation stores, &c., 7,494*l.*

Expenditure.

5. The expenditure was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil establishment	3,695	15	0
Judicial	4,230	11	7
Ecclesiastical	2,633	10	6
Miscellaneous	14,901	18	8
Pensions	225	3	4
	25,686	19	1

GRENADA.

leaving only a small surplus of 182*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* to meet outstanding claims for that year.

6. There appears a considerable increase of expenditure in 1867 over that of 1866 of 4,483*l.*, arising chiefly in the increase of the police establishment, in the amount for repairs of buildings, roads, and bridges, and from the salaries of the several establishments having been paid on the 31st December of that year, namely, for thirteen months, instead of as formerly at the beginning of the year, in order thereby to facilitate the obtaining a more accurate yearly financial statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony.

7. The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of 1866 and 1867—

Revenue.

Revenue.		
1866.	1867.	Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
21,139 16 0	19,983 13 9	1,156 2 3

Expenditure.

Expenditure.		
1866.	1867.	Increase.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
21,203 17 5	25,686 19 1	4,483 1 8

Local Revenues.

8. *Immigration Fund.* The balance at the credit of this fund at the end of the year was 6,166*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* This sum includes the loan of 1,000*l.* to the general funds of the Colony, which will be repaid during the course of this year. Bounties in lieu of return passages to India under the authority of the Act No. 380 were paid to 131 Coolies, amounting to the sum of 1,247*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* The sum of 24*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* was paid as compensation to 28 Coolies whilst awaiting for return passages. The balance, viz., 2,000*l.*, of the local loan of 5,000*l.* incurred in 1862, was paid off during the year.

9. The following table exhibits the receipts and expenditure under the several branches of local revenues and special funds :—

	Balances from 1866.	Receipts in 1867.	Total.	Expenditure in 1867.	On hand 31st December 1867.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Immigration	7,296 6 10	3,751 0 1	11,047 6 11	4,880 16 8	6,166 10 3
Streets	227 14 1	212 8 8	440 2 9	307 2 0	133 0 9
Water Fund	1,109 4 8	257 19 10	1,367 4 6	82 16 4	1,284 8 2
Harbour Fund	362 12 10	92 0 4	454 13 2	5 15 0	448 18 2
Lands and Buildings	91 8 5	213 15 2	305 3 7	100 15 2	204 8 5
Post Office	40 13 10	507 15 7	548 9 5	530 12 10	17 16 7
Casual Revenues	168 15 6	938 9 10	1,107 5 4	529 0 8	578 4 8
Church Lands	95 7 9	121 19 10	217 7 7	52 2 10	165 4 9
Colony Hospital	72 0 4	1,089 17 9	1,161 18 1	1,128 17 4	33 0 9
Port of Grenville	200 17 10	349 6 5	550 4 3	380 19 6	169 4 9
Totals	9,665 2 1	7,534 13 6	17,199 15 7	7,998 18 4	9,200 17 3

Public Debt.

10. Of the loan of 7,000*l.* incurred in July 1858 for immigration purposes, and guaranteed by Act of the Imperial Parliament 11 & 12 Vict. c. 130, the sum of

3,812*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* has up to 31st December 1867 been invested as a sinking fund for the payment of this debt.

11. The balance of the local loan also incurred for the purposes of immigration was paid off in June 1867.

12. By the Act 377 passed, on the 4th June 1867, a loan was contracted from the immigration fund, "to pay for extraordinary repairs to the roads and bridges of the parish of St. Patrick." This measure was rendered necessary from the considerable damage which was occasioned to the public roads and bridges of that parish by the heavy rains of the 1st December 1866. This loan is made chargeable on the general revenues of the Colony, and the Act by which it is created provides that it shall be repaid in twelve months.

Roads and Public Buildings.

13. No new works were undertaken during the year. Some repairs were done to the Poor House and Lunatic Asylum, to Government House, and to the Parsonage at St. John's, all which were effected under the superintendence of the Committee of Public Buildings.

14. A sum of 300*l.*, which had been inserted in the Money Bill for 1866, for building a causeway over the river Antoine, was re-voted in the Money Bill for 1867, but the work not having been commenced in either of these years no further provision was made in the Supply Act of 1868.

15. The sum for building a Parsonage at St. Andrew's, which had been re-voted in the Money Bill for the year 1867, was also inserted in the Bill for the current year. I have every reason to believe that this work will be carried out by the end of the year.

16. A sum of 300*l.* for building a bridge over the river at Charlotte Town, St. John's, was granted and provided for in the Money Bill for 1867, but no further progress than the calling for and accepting of a tender having been made the sum was re-voted in the Money Bill for the current year.

17. It is greatly to be deplored that the Colony has not the benefit of a skilled surveyor of roads and works; the sums annually voted and expended for the repairs of roads and works would certainly then be more judiciously and satisfactorily applied. No less a sum than 3,833*l.* was expended on roads during the year; and it cannot be said that favourable results have been derived by the application of this large amount of money on 126 miles, which is the whole extent of public roads in the Colony.

18. The addition of a wing of two stories to the Common Gaol, which had been commenced during the year 1866, was completed, and handed over to the Provost Marshal, during the year under review. The upper story consists of four rooms appropriated to debtors, and the lower of four cells for the occupation of convicted prisoners. These apartments are roomy, and are over 1,100 cubic feet of space.

Legislation.

19. Under this head not much progress was made during the year. The Legislature was in session for eleven days. Of the ten Acts passed during the year, beyond the Annual Supply Act there was no other of much importance.

A Probate Bill, recommended by the Executive, having for its object the amendment of the existing practice of the Court of Ordinary, passed by the Council, and which is generally considered to be a necessary and useful measure, was rejected by the Assembly.

20. The Bill for relief of insolvent debtors, and that for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the several towns, and for affording relief in cases of destitution, should any epidemic disease unhappily occur, are important measures still under the consideration of the Assembly.

Civil Establishment.

21. The only change of importance under this head occurred in the office of Attorney General, by the death of Mr. Shervington, in October last. The office has since been conferred upon Mr. A. P. Burt, but who has not yet arrived in the Colony.

22. By the retirement of Dr. Aquart, upon a superannuation allowance of 250*l.*, several important changes were made in the holders of medical appointments; Dr. Orgias was transferred from St. Andrew to St. George, and has also charge of the Colony Hospital, and is surgeon of the Gaol, vice Dr. Aquart. Dr. Lang, health officer of Carriacou, was appointed to the office vacated by Dr. Orgias at St. Andrew, and the appointment of health officer of Carriacou was bestowed upon Dr. R. F. Leith.

23. By the death of Dr. Todd the medical officership of the parishes of St. John and St. Mark became vacant, to which Dr. O. B. Yearwood was appointed.

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Pensions.

24. The only addition to this return is the name of Dr. Modeste Aquart. By Act 382, dated 6th August 1867, a pension of 250*l.* is secured to him after a term of 17 years medical service to the Colony, and from his advanced age and infirmity.

Population.

25. In my Registration Returns to 31st December 1866 I estimated the population of the Colony at 35,672, and in my abstracts to 31st December 1867 there appears a natural increase to the population by an excess of registered births over deaths of 485, or 1·35 per cent. This increase is however reduced by emigration, and the population of the Colony on the 31st December 1867 stands at 35,993. The number of births registered was 1,445, and of deaths 960. The birth-rate, including the still-born, was 4·05 per cent., and the death-rate, 2·69 per cent. The marriages were 182, and they were slightly higher than those of 1866. The number of baptisms returned show a slight excess over the number of the births registered; but there were many adult baptisms, the numbers, therefore, of births and baptisms remain almost equal. The burials still continue to be greatly below the number of deaths; but I must remind your Excellency that account is only taken of burials solemnized by ministers of religion, so that those performed by laymen, which are numerous, are not included in my returns. This is one of the defects in the Act which should be remedied.

26. I append my report and returns, from which full information may be obtained.

Immigration.

27. There were no immigrants introduced into the Colony during the year.

28. The total number of Indian immigrants in the Colony on 31st December 1867 was 1725, namely:

	Males	Females.	Total.
Under indenture -	666	206	872
Un-indentured -	481	372	853
Totals - -	1,147	578	1,725

29. The sanitary condition of the Coolie population during the year was far more satisfactory than that of the previous year. There was, however, a decrease among them, by an excess of 13 deaths. The births were 57 and the deaths 70.

Education.

30. There was a small increase of boys in the Grammar School during the year. With reference to the Normal School, the head master remarks, "the average attendance has undergone a trifling diminution." The number of boys was 59.

31. Since the reduction in the scale of charges for tuition in the Grammar School there has been an increase in the number of the pupils. I regret, however, to add, that the number of boys during the year was only 26.

32. The total number of children attending the schools receiving aid from the Colony was 1,618, viz., 1,077 boys and 541 girls; this is by no means a fair proportion of the population.

33. There appears an increase of 200 children attending public schools in the Colony as compared with the number of the previous year.

34. The following return exhibits the increase or decrease for the years 1866 and 1867 respectively of children attending the Grammar and Normal Schools, and also of other schools in connection with each religious denomination.

Years.	Grammar School.	Normal School.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholics.	Total.	Increase.
1866 -	7	46	641	267	457	1,418	—
1867 -	26	59	738	419	376	1,618	200

Imports and Exports.

35. A decrease of 10,338*l.* appears in the value of the imports as compared with that for 1866. The total value of the imports for 1867 is returned at 111,917*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* This falling off in the principal sources of revenue may be attributed to a diminution in the agricultural operations of the Colony, and the consequent restriction of supplies, thus materially affecting the action of trade.

36. There was an increase in the value of the exports of 2,962*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* over that of 1866. The total value of the exports is given at 116,199*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*

37. The subjoined tables exhibit the direction of trade and the value of imports and exports for the last five years.

IMPORTS.

Countries.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	36,944 1 10	65,832 3 7	56,919 7 2	52,115 0 4	51,657 7 7
British Colonies	44,222 18 1	43,155 11 4	44,899 18 0	56,164 4 9	44,005 11 7
United States	8,171 13 4	11,307 8 2	9,917 1 2	12,140 8 4	13,840 14 0
Other Foreign Countries	736 3 5	1,018 16 1	2,374 13 10	1,835 16 11	2,414 4 8
Totals	90,074 16 8	121,313 19 2	114,111 0 2	122,255 10 4	111,917 17 10

EXPORTS.

Countries.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	102,701 17 3	140,370 14 3	97,476 18 8	98,687 12 11½	99,781 17 5
British Colonies	6,058 18 1	4,900 12 7	14,335 18 11	12,569 1 1½	11,955 14 8
United States	33 15 0	936 19 10	335 5 6	417 8 10	665 0 4
Other Foreign Countries	2,282 17 6	7,006 14 10	5,897 7 11	1,563 2 9	3,796 18 6
Totals	111,077 7 10	153,215 1 6	118,045 11 0	113,237 5 8	116,199 10 11

Shipping.

38. The tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in ports of the Colony during the year was greatly in excess of the previous year. This increase may be attributed to the additional supply of coals imported for the use of the vessels of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The colliers contribute nothing to the general funds of the Colony; the only tax imposed is that towards the "Water Fund" of 3*d.* per ton.

39. The following return shows the number of vessels entered and cleared in each of the years 1866 and 1867:—

Years.	Entered						Cleared					
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1866	323	15,130	25	869	348	15,999	337	13,516	32	906	369	14,422
1867	264	21,456	27	1,357	291	22,813	188	14,677	33	6,045	221	20,722
Increase	—	6,326	2	488	—	6,814	—	1,161	1	5,139	—	6,300
Decrease	59	—	—	—	57	—	149	—	—	—	148	—

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Agriculture.

40. The sugar crop of the year 1867 was not as large as that of the previous year, but was in excess of the crop of 1865.

41. The Colony, I regret to observe, shows no improvement as a sugar-producing country. The cause is not only from the effects of low prices in the home markets. When we hear of land yielding in some cases barely a hogshead an acre, and on some few estates the yield sometimes reaching two hogsheads, it must at once be admitted that grave defects exist in the system of culture carried out on the estates.

42. The quantity of sugar shipped during the last five years is as follows:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1863 -	5,116	16	0	12
1864 -	4,492	15	0	15
1865 -	3,928	0	2	24
1866 -	5,360	14	1	14
1867 -	4,005	12	1	24

43. A very satisfactory increase in the produce of cotton appears. Carriacou may be said to have produced almost the whole of this article.

44. The shipments in 1866 were 87 tons 17 cwt. 0 qrs. 15 lbs.
and in 1867 - - 133 „ 15 „ 0 „ 20 „

45. Cocoa is gradually becoming the principal product of the Colony; and it may be consolatory to reflect, that when we perceive Grenada so fast passing out of the category of a sugar-producing country, that we can look upon the cocoa cultivation as a valuable plant in succession to the cane.

46. The quantity of cocoa shipped from 1863 to 1867 is as follows:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1863 -	522	7	3	0
1864 -	477	2	2	4
1865 -	577	11	1	13
1866 -	631	3	2	21
1867 -	761	4	1	4

Whale Fishery.

47. 12,624 gallons of oil were exported, the produce of whales captured within this Government. The value is fixed at 1,374*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and on the whole the fishery during the year must have been highly successful and profitable.

Gaol and Prisoners.

48. The construction of an additional wing to the gaol has been attended with great advantages; a better classification of the debtors has been effected, and also of convicted prisoners.

49. Further improvements are very much needed, and when the suggestions of the Commission of 1865 shall have been carried out, in accordance with the subsequent pledge given for that purpose by the House of Assembly, the gaol will then be placed in a satisfactory condition for the confinement of prisoners, and for the carrying out of those sound principles so generally acknowledged as necessary for the proper conduct of prison discipline. I regret, however, to add, that I see no reasonable prospects for a speedy carrying out of the suggestions of the Commissioners.

50. No improvement has been made in the laws in regard to insolvency and imprisonment for debt. A Bill for the amendment of those laws was introduced into the House of Assembly by the late Attorney General, and the Bill was read a first time. No further progress appears to have been made with the measure, and the old enactments still therefore remain a blot upon our Statute Book.

51. The number of persons imprisoned for debt during the year was 27. In 1866 there were 19. Of those imprisoned in 1867, 20 were for sums under 80*s.*, and they were consequently maintained at the cost of the Colony.

52. The following return of commitments from 1863 to 1867 shows a decrease during the latter year as compared with those of 1866.

53. Of convictions in the Supreme Court, the numbers were equal in both of the years 1866 and 1867, and of those by magistrates, a decrease of 22 appears.

Commitments.

Years.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1863 -	19	3	196	37	255
1864 -	16	1	171	32	220
1865 -	8	5	152	41	206
1866 -	16	1	178	36	231
1867 -	16	1	153	39	209

54. An Indian immigrant was convicted for the murder of his wife, and the extreme sentence of the law was carried out in the month of August.

55. The gaol still maintains its character for healthiness. Two deaths occurred during the year, but the causes were contracted previous to the conviction of the prisoners.

Charitable Institutions.

56. Colony Hospital.—The total number of patients treated during the year was 528.

57. The following is an account of the revenue and expenditure of the charity during the year.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Balance on 1st January 1867 - - - -	72	0	4
Received from Public Treasurer, per money Bill -	500	0	0
„ „ immigration fund - - -	300	0	0
„ „ rents and sale of lots - - -	262	6	9½
„ „ for care of sick seamen - -	10	2	0
„ „ indentured Coolies - - -	3	18	0
„ „ policemen - - - -	10	7	0
Miscellaneous - -	3	4	0
	£1,161	18	1½

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Paid for supplies, &c. - - - - -	661	17	4½
„ „ officers salaries, &c. - - - -	248	19	6
„ „ clothing and bedding - - - -	68	19	10
„ „ repairs to buildings - - - -	119	11	6½
„ „ miscellaneous accounts - - -	29	9	1
Balance at Colonial Bank - - - -	33	0	9½
	£1,161	18	1½

58. In the Poor House there were on 31st December 1867 24 inmates. The number of persons receiving out-door relief from the Poor Law Board was 69. The legislative grant in support of this charity was 500*l.*

In the Lunatic Asylum there were 20 patients in confinement at the end of the year. The number of persons treated during the year was 27. Two were discharged as cured, and five deaths occurred. The legislative grant in support of this institution was 300*l.*

60. In the Victoria Almshouse there were eight inmates at the end of the year. The charity is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

GRENADA.

Conclusion.

61. Neither the trade nor the agriculture (the latter as regards sugar cultivation) can, I regret to say, be considered to have been satisfactory during the year.

62. The holders of small patches of land, and the proprietors of small sugar mills, appear to be prosperous; indeed they must be so from their increasing number.

63. The Island was happily free from epidemic disease, and was not visited by either pestilence or hurricane.

64. In the month of October a remarkable and curious phenomenon occurred in the harbour of St. George and in some of the out-bays by an extraordinary flow and ebb of the sea. The rise of the sea in St. George's was as high as four feet above the wharf, and the water extended to above 50 feet along one of the streets. On the recede of the sea, in some places, about 30 feet of the Carenage was left bare of water. This phenomenon was marked by an explosion which occurred, and which entirely destroyed the waterworks used by the shipping for watering. Considerable injury was done to some of the houses, but fortunately no lives were lost.

65. On the whole, we have much cause to be thankful to a merciful Providence for being spared those disturbances of nature which unfortunately may be said to have characterized the year 1867, and which principally occurred among the islands of the Leeward group, resulting in such disastrous consequences.

66 The people generally appear contented and happy, and I am pleased to add that, as loyal citizens, they have as usual evinced cheerful obedience to the laws of the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAM. MITCHELL,
Col. Secretary.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Mundy,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grenada, May 11, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency my annual report, and the accompanying abstracts of births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, and burials for the year 1867, which show the results of a second year's registration under the Act 357 of 1865.

2. There were during the year added to the several register books a total of 1,445 births and 960 deaths, and the number of marriages solemnized by the several ministers of religion was returned at 182.

3. These figures, on a comparison, show that the births were 19 less than those registered in 1866; that the deaths, on the other hand, were in 1867 14 less than in 1866; and that the marriages were 21 above the number of the previous year.

4. The natural increase to the population by the excess of births over deaths was 485, whilst, in 1866, the increase was 490. This addition, however, to the population, to 31st December 1867, is slightly diminished by the actual emigration of 164 Coolies, some of whom were transferred to British Guiana, the Government not having been able to obtain employment from the planting body, others, from a term of industrial residence, having acquired certificates, left the Colony for British Guiana and Trinidad.

5. There was no addition during the year to the population by immigration.

BIRTHS.

6. The birth-rate for the year, including still births, was 4·05 per cent. for the population. On a comparison with the previous year, there appears to have been an increase of births in 1867 in the following districts, viz. St. George, St. John, St. Mark, St. Andrew, and St. David. The district of St. Andrew gives the largest figures, whilst in St. Patrick's there was a remarkable decrease of 67 births as compared with the number registered in 1866. There was also a decrease in Carriacou, though an inconsiderable one.

7. A full comparison is given of children born in and out of wedlock during the year in my notes appended to the abstract returns, and I am happy to add that my analysis shows a more favourable state of affairs than the returns of the previous year present.

8. It may be interesting to observe the difference in the fecundity of the under-mentioned places for the periods for which from the returns at hand I am enabled to take comparisons:

Great Britain, 1864	3·56 per cent.
St. Vincent, 1864–65	4·29 „ „
Grenada, 1866	4·07 „ „
Do., 1867	3·92 „ „
Antigua 1864	3·47 „ „

The above figures are exclusive of the still births. It will thus be seen that the birth-rate in Grenada for the two years has been most satisfactory. In Great Britain the births registered in 1864 were more numerous than in any previous year, and that, notwithstanding this, the births registered in Grenada were, in proportion to its population, one half per cent. above the ratio of Great Britain for 1864.

9. The still births in 1867 were 45, and in 1866 31, or at the rate of one in every 31·11 and 46·22 of the living births for the two years respectively.

10. At Antigua the still births in 1864 were no less than 183, or one in every 6·68 of the living births. At St. Vincent the number was not as large during the year ended 30th June 1865 as at Antigua. The still births were, however, as high as 93, or one in every 13·58 of the living births. It is difficult to assign a correct cause for the apparent great difference in the number of still births registered in Grenada in comparison with those at Antigua and St. Vincent.

11. The results of the two years working of the Registration Act in Grenada show clearly that the returns can be relied upon, and if, as there doubtless may be, a small deficiency in the numbers of births and deaths registered, but few in my opinion escape registration. The Registration Act allows seven days for giving information of a birth or death, and in case of neglect a penalty not exceeding 10*l.* is prescribed. As a proof of a reliable registration I may mention that persons are found generally prompt in giving information, and but seldom is the time allowed to elapse before information is given to the officer of the district.

12. The Grenada returns exhibit the highest proportion of children born out of wedlock as compared with other places. In 1866 the proportion to every 100 births was 63·59; in 1867 63.

In 1864 the rate in St. Vincent was 61·26; Antigua 58·77.

And in England the very low rate of 6·4 per cent. appears.

13. The proportion of the legitimate children born is as follows:

Grenada,	1866,	36·40	per cent.	of the	births.
Do.,	1867,	36·95	,,	,,	,,
Great Britain	1864,	93·59	,,	,,	,,
St. Vincent	,,	38·73	,,	,,	,,
Antigua	,,	41·22	,,	,,	,,

DEATHS.

14. There were 960 deaths registered, and they were slightly lower than in the previous year.

15. The rate of mortality to every 100 persons living was 2·69. Considering the effects of a West India climate, the death-rate contrasts very favourably with that for 1864 in England, which was 2·38 per cent.; but this rate, however, was considered excessive. In proof of the healthiness of Grenada, I find that the death-rates at Antigua (4·8) and St. Vincent (4 per cent.) were considerably higher than the rate of mortality in Grenada.

16. The maximum number of deaths occurred among adults, that is, persons above the age of 15. Their deaths were almost one half of the total number recorded. The minimum number of deaths occurred among the infants under one year. The rate among them was 25·72 per cent. of the total deaths. At St. Vincent the rate in 1864 was 26·31, and at Antigua 30·11. The infant deaths in Grenada are therefore less than in the two mentioned islands, and from this circumstance a favourable aspect may be taken of some better care being bestowed by the lower orders of the people over their infant children.

17. The classified return of "causes of death" shows that no less than 109 persons died of zymotic (epidemic, endemic, or contagious) or eruptive fevers, and 227 of diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion. Of causes "not specified" there appears 129 such, but from this it must not be assumed that the remaining deaths were accurately determined.

18. I regret to say that this is by no means a reliable return.

19. The Registration Act provides for a column of "causes of death," and establishes a penalty for giving false information; but the Act is quite silent as to certificates, medical or otherwise, of the causes of death necessary to be furnished the Registrar in order to an accurate record of the event. This, it must be admitted, is a very grave defect in the law.

20. The Act requires that the father, or mother, or the occupier, and (in case of a death if the occupier be the person dead) some inmate of the house or tenement in which the birth or death shall happen, shall be the person to inform. It happens that in towns, and principally in the rural districts, persons totally incapable, but by the Act qualified, present themselves before the Registrars as informers, and although in other respects their information may be reliable, yet, as to the cause of death, it is almost impossible in many cases to arrive at a correct conclusion.

21. An Act of the Colony makes provision for a medical man in each district to attend the poor. Notwithstanding this provision, it has happened, and doubtless it is so in the majority of cases, that deaths occur without the knowledge of the doctor. The profession are not totally to blame; but some neglect attaches to them in not answering promptly to a call. In some cases it occurred to my knowledge that the doctor was called for, and did not visit until two days after. The poor are themselves much to blame; generally they wait till the last extremity of a case, and then seek the doctor when too late. In other cases people have been allowed to die under the treatment of quacks and such like practitioners, without the least idea being had of calling the duly qualified practitioner.

22. In the large and populous districts it is quite impossible for a single medical practitioner to visit a scattered people, when the difficulties of travelling and of getting to the residences of the poor are had in view. It becomes dangerous, on account of the state of the roads leading to their dwellings, for a rider safely to get to the assistance of the sick. I think, therefore, that, for districts like St. Andrew and St. Patrick, an assistant medical officer might with great advantage be appointed for those parishes jointly. Some provision might also be made whereby the causes of death might be certified by the medical officer, and the advantages that would therefore be derived by an amendment in the Act, especially in regard to medical certificates of causes of death, cannot be over estimated.

23. Under the head zymotic diseases, the mortality must be taken as embracing every type of fever. The cases of fever, I may add, were principally brain, intermittent, and remittent.

24. Of the sporadic diseases, dropsy was more fatal than any other of the diseases embraced in the first head.

GRENADA.

25. Of diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration, consumption was prominent during the year.

26. The large number of 227 deaths is assigned to diseases of the stomach, &c. And infants, it will be seen, bear a large proportion of the deaths. Diarrhœa and thrush may be accurately assigned as the chief causes of the high rate.

27. Of the cutaneous diseases, 28 deaths were registered. In St. Patrick's two fatal cases of leprosy occurred. The loathsome disease yaws, which had been prevalent during 1866, considerably abated during the year. From the prompt and rigid treatment and isolation enforced, the cases were not as numerous among the Indian immigrants.

28. The deaths from old age next require notice ; and I may remark that the ages varied from 80 to as high as 105 years; two or three persons reached the latter age, and I notice that longevity appears to rest with the women, since their deaths were more than double the number of the males.

29. One hundred and twenty-nine are returned as causes "not specified." I am glad to remark an improvement under this head as compared with the return for 1866, and that, notwithstanding the difficulties of obtaining correct causes, the number "not specified" in 1867 is less than the like return for the previous year.

MARRIAGES.

30. Marriage is regulated by the Acts Nos. 37, 62, 71, 77, 100, and 106 of the Island. The solemnization of matrimony can only be performed by ministers of the Christian religion of every persuasion, after due publication of banns, or upon production of a licence grnted by the Governor.

31. The number of marriages returned as of 1867 is 182 ; this is an excess of 21 over those of the previous year. Only 13 couples were married under the authority of the Governor's licence, whilst the remaining number preferred the proclamation of banns. The fees for obtaining a licence of the ordinary are 1*l.* 16*s.*, and the clergyman's fees for marrying and registering 7*s.* It may not be surprising, therefore, notwithstanding the very low scale of fees, that more marriages are solemnized after publication of banns than by licence.

33. The marriage rate for 1867 was in the proportion of 5·10 to every 1,000 of the population, or, in other words, there were 196 persons living to every marriage. In England there were in 1864 116 persons living to every marriage.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

34. The general health of the Colony during the year was, like the previous year, unexceptionable.

35. The June quarter shows the lowest rate of mortality, whilst, as usual, the deaths in the September quarter were of a higher rate. The usual ordinary sickness peculiar to that period of the year, viz., colds and fever, remittent and intermittent, were pretty general ; but the fatal cases were not, I am happy to say, as numerous as those of the corresponding period of 1866.

36. The December bears the highest rate of mortality among the other quarters of the year.

37. The Island was free from epidemic disease.

38. Vaccination was performed during the year by the medical officers of each district free of charge to the poor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAM. MITCHELL,
Registrar General.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

TOBAGO.

No. 10.

TOBAGO.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MUNDY to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM and CHANDOS.

(No. 322.)

MY LORD DUKE, Windward Islands, Barbados, June 22, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Tobago for 1867, with Lieut.-Governor Kortright's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 42.) Enclosure in No. 10.

SIR, Government House, Tobago, June 2, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1867, in duplicate.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year was 9,840*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; the expenditure 9,808*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* On the 1st January there was a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of 287*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, which, together with the difference between the revenue and expenditure, shows a net balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December of 320*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

The import duties under the tariff amounted to 4,214*l.* 4*s.*, which, with 40 per cent. additional, amounting to 1,685*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, shows the receipts under this head to have been 5,809*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* Compared with 1866, the decrease in the revenue from this source was very trifling.

Public Debt.

The amount due to Her Majesty's Government on account of the hurricane loan was reduced to 944*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* during the year. Provision has been made by which it is expected that this balance will be liquidated in the present year.

Public Works.

The sum of 200*l.* was appropriated towards the repairs of public buildings during the year. The grant for the repair of roads was 696*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*; the expenditure 845*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* The sum of 149*l.* 6*s.* was received as commutation money under the Road Act, and became part of the general revenue.

Legislation.

Eleven Acts were passed during the year; they are exclusively of a local character.

Population.

No satisfactory statistics of the population have been kept up since the taking of the census in 1861. The total population ascertained at that period was 15,410; and, according to the present return, the natural increase has been assumed for the six years ended 31st December last at 614 souls, being about 1 per cent. per annum, which, with 225 African immigrants introduced in 1862, would give the total estimated population at 16,249. The number of baptisms registered by the ministers of the respective denominations was 499, and of deaths 341. The number of marriages was 70. An Act for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages having recently become law, it is to be hoped that more accurate details will in future be obtained under this head.

Ecclesiastical.

There are three clergymen in connection with the Church of England, and five churches, and two chapels, which afford accommodation for about 2,750 persons, the average attendance being 1,610 persons. The Moravians and Wesleyans have 15 places of worship, the average attendance at which is stated to be 4,000 persons.

Education.

The number of children attending the day schools of the several denominations was as follows, viz :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England -	477	355	832
Wesleyan - - -	295	216	511
Moravian - -	463	359	822
Total - -	1,235	930	2,165

The number of adults and children attending the Sunday schools was of males 472, and of females 556; total 1,128.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports for the year was 54,826*l.*, and of the exports 55,951*l.*

Of the principal articles of produce there were exported 424 puncheons of molasses; 959 puncheons and 50 hhds. of rum; 4,427 hhds. of sugar, the weight of which was

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about 71,293 cwts. The quantity of cotton shipped was 17,068 lbs. The number of cocoanuts returned as exported was 433,840, of an estimated value of 2,154*l.*

In all respects the year under review contrasts favourably with the preceding one; and with fair seasons and steady markets, we may confidently look forward to a gradual improvement in the prospects of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Honour the Administrator,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 447.)

MY LORD DUKE, Windward Islands, Barbados, May 8, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1867, with the usual report thereon from the Administrator.

2. I cannot, in reference to the revenue and expenditure of the Island, avoid reverting to the circumstances under which I assumed its government in January 1862.

3. It was then the opinion of the West India Committee, and of other independent gentlemen connected with the Colony, that the civil establishment and general expenditure were excessive, and capable of considerable reduction. To some extent I shared in that opinion, and I entered upon my duty with a determination to meet what I considered the just expectations expressed by the Committee on the subject.

4. The correspondence in your Grace's Department affords plenty of evidence to show that no opportunity has been lost of reducing or consolidating the public offices. The aggregate saving has nevertheless been small.

5. On the other hand, several large items of additional expenditure have been entailed on us by the policy of the Home Government. For example, the withdrawal of the Imperial troops compelled us, from having been content with half a dozen policemen, to organize an armed constabulary force of 50 men. The transfer of the payment of the salaries of the stipendiary magistrates from the British to the Colonial treasury at once added 1,000*l.* to the expenditure of the Island.

6. There have been besides to be provided for many important services, which, in these days of competition and progress, could not be avoided in St. Lucia if it were intended to keep its head above water. Of these, I should note the maintenance of the dredge in Castries Harbour, and the subsidy to the small steamer plying between Castries and the outports of the Island.

14,295*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*
14,137*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*
15,802*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

7. I hope that all these things will be borne in mind when the expenditure of the Colony for 1867 as shown by the Blue Book, is contrasted with the amount incurred in 1861 and 1862; and when I add that the little civil establisnment of the Island is in a most efficient and creditable condition, I think that your Grace will admit that we have not done badly. But the lion's share of the merit, whatever it may be, is undoubtedly due to the Administrator, Mr. Grant, who for six years has toiled at his duty with remarkable fidelity and energy.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAS. WALKER.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 71.) Enclosure in No. 11.

SIR, Government Office, St. Lucia, May 2, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1867, with the usual comparative returns annexed.

2. My remarks upon its contents need be but of the briefest description, for the circumstances of the Colony vary so little, year by year, that anything like a lengthy

report would be tedious, and almost a recapitulation of former matter. What little I have to record is scarcely favourable, for, whilst last year I was able to show that the revenue of 1866 had exceeded that of the previous year, and could point to the larger crop and other circumstances as the cause of this improvement, I am obliged on this occasion to state that the results of 1867 have, in almost every respect, been inferior to those of 1866. With this general observation, I shall proceed in the usual order and with the utmost possible brevity to institute a closer comparison between the two years.

Revenue.

3. The general revenue of 1867, although collected (with one exception) from the same sources, fell off considerably from that of 1866, and did not come up to the estimate made in July 1866.

	£	s.	d.
Estimated revenue for 1867 - -	14,156	0	0
Actual revenue of do. - - -	13,442	7	1
Deficiency - - -	£713	12	11
General revenue for 1866 - - -	15,293	12	4
Ditto 1867 - -	13,442	7	1
Decrease - - -	£1,851	5	3

This decrease is attributable principally to the falling off of the import duties (which was caused in part by vessels which were expected at the close of the year not arriving until the beginning of the current year), to a less amount being collected from the duty upon rum consumed in the Colony, and to the transfer of the rents and sales of lands, which had reverted to the possession of the Crown, from general revenue to a special fund (the Casual Revenue Account).

	1866.	1867.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	6,527	5,231	1,296
Tonnage duties - - -	735	646	89
Rum duties - - - -	5,003	4,664	339
Fees, fines, and forfeitures - -	797	706	91
Miscellaneous - - -	715	573	142

4. The Customs returns show a decrease in the importation of almost every article, in some cases to a considerable extent. For instance, the quantity of flour was less by 2,664 barrels, and of meats, "salted and cured," by 28,437 lbs. The supply of "salt-fish" was nearly the same as the year before. The fact that ground provisions were plentiful will account to some extent for the great falling off of the trade in flour.

5. The annexed table shows the total revenue of the Colony for the past year :—

	£	s.	d.
General revenue - - - -	13,442	7	1
Education - - - - -	525	2	11
Roads and bridges - - - -	1,232	10	4
Immigration - - - - -	1,439	18	9
Military property fund - - -	239	5	9
Castries Harbour dredge fund - -	120	2	3
Loan fund - - - -	353	9	1
Casual revenue fund - - - -	304	2	5
Total - -	£17,656	18	7

The last heading of this statement is a new one. An Ordinance was passed in April 1867, which came into operation in July last, under which all casual revenue of the Crown (other than droits of the Crown and droits of the Admiralty) has been paid in to a special account, instead of, as heretofore, being carried to the credit of the general revenue.

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Export Duties.

6. The tariff remains the same, but the crop, the mainstay of the Colony, being short of the quantity produced last year, less was realized from this item of revenue.

	£	s.	d.
The amount collected, and carried to the education fund, was	157	11	1
„ „ to the road and bridges fund -	690	14	3
„ „ to the immigration fund - -	1,234	16	8
	£ 2,083	2	0

The amount raised in 1866 was 2,293*l.* 2*s* 4*d.*; the decrease therefore is 210*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

7. The usual amount was taken from these duties to pay the interest on and instalments of the Guaranteed Loans to St. Lucia (18,000*l.*), and the remainder went to benefit the different funds; namely:—

	£	s.	d.
Education fund - - - - - -	157	11	1
Road and bridges do. - - -	495	2	3
Immigration do. - - - -	21	16	8
	£ 674	10	0

Imports and Exports.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
8.	1863 - -	69,583	0	0	83,711	17	5
	1864 - -	90,363	1	3	111,383	15	11
	1865 - -	70,757	10	8	107,321	8	4
	1866 - -	91,504	13	8	109,402	18	8
	1867 - -	71,138	2	8	93,831	10	4

The declared value of the exports is less than in the three preceding years. The difference in the value of the principal article of export, sugar, was 11,804*l.*

Expenditure.

9. The general expenditure exceeded the estimate slightly, and was also greater than the actual expenditure of the previous year.

	£.	s.	d.
Estimated expenditure of 1867 -	14,248	4	0
Actual do. do. - - -	14,295	11	7
Excess £	47	7	7

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure of 1866 - - -	13,939	14	2
do 1867 - - -	14,295	11	7
Excess £	355	17	5

The difference may be attributed to the greater amount expended upon "Works and Buildings," "Public Vaccination," "Hospitals," and to the introduction of a new item of expenditure, a subsidy to an Island steamer.

	Expended. in 1866.			Expended. in 1867.			Increase.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Works and buildings - -	45	4	8	328	6	0	337	1	4
Subsidy to Island steamer - - -				129	11	8	129	11	8
Vaccination - - - - -				50	12	0	50	12	0
Hospitals - - -	495	11	2	581	5	8	85	14	6

10. The total expenditure of the Colony was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
General expenditure - - - - -	14,295	11	7
Education (less 500*l.* included in general expenditure) -	566	4	1
Immigration - - - - - -	1,761	10	0
Roads and bridges - - - - -	953	14	3
Military property - - - - -	233	7	5
Loan fund (principal and interest repaid) - -	353	9	1
Castries Harbour Dredge Fund do. - - -	223	3	6
Total £	18,386	19	11

It should be added that the revenue for general purposes was insufficient to meet the year's expenditure, and 670*l.* had to be temporarily applied from the floating balances of special funds to meet the deficiency, in order to avoid the inconvenience of letting part of the liabilities belonging to 1867 remain over until this year.

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

11. The revenue raised by the Corporation of Castries amounted to 904*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and their expenditure to 753*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* The latter was of the ordinary description, and included the first contribution to liquidate the amount borrowed to purchase a dredging machine to deepen the water near the wharves.

Public Debt.

12. The guaranted public loans to the Colony amount to 18,000*l.* The amount of stock in the three per cent. annuities in the hands of the managers of the loan for its redemption had increased at the close of the year to 7,050*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* The balance due at the same period to the roads and bridges fund on the 1,000*l.* loan was 254*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, and to the immigration fund on the loan of 660*l.*, borrowed to purchase the dredge, 594*l.*

Roads and Bridges.

13. The number of persons who performed "statute labour" on the roads at the first turn out in the year was 3,847, and at the second period 3,294. They gave altogether 21,423 days' labour, which at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day would represent 1,338*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.* But it need hardly be added that this kind of labour cannnot be measured by the same standard as hired labour. The people who turn out idle part of their time, and work as lightly as they can during the remainder of their hours of employment. A great part of the public road cannot be repaired by the labour thus obtained at all, and the repairs which are effected by it consist of little more than clearing the drains and scraping the surface of the road. 616*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* was also expended upon the repairs of the roads and bridges; but in the more uninhabited district the roads are, and always I am afraid will be, mere tracks, in many places more like dry watercourses than what they profess to be. In dry weather they are just passable, but in the rainy season, and in 1867, it rained the whole year through, the passage over and through them is anything but agreeable.

Legislation.

14. Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, all of which have been confirmed. No. 1. 15th February. This was the customary Ordinance which is passed to cover the supplementary estimates of the previous year for the sums spent in excess of the votes. The estimate amounted to 129*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

Nos. 2 and 3. 13th February. These Ordinances were for the purpose of granting to Mr. Knaggs and Mr. Gedge patent rights in certain improvements in the manufacture of sugar and rum and in the apparatus employed therein.

No. 4. 13th April. This Ordinance provides for the appropriation of the casual revenue of the Crown in the Colony (other than droits of the Crown and of the Admiralty,) including the revenue arising from the sale of the estates and effects of persons who have died intestate and without heirs and next of kin. It provides that all such revenue, which shall hereafter by order of the Crown be paid into the public treasury, shall be appropriated by the Legislature to such public purposes as they may think fit and proper. Heretofore the revenue from these sources has been carried to the credit of the general revenue, and applied to the ordinary expenditure of the Colony.

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No. 5. 13th April. The object of this Ordinance is to abolish the practice of attaching the salaries of public officers or others employed by or under the Government in the hands of the Treasurer, and it was introduced because the system was considered prejudicial to the public service. It declares that no attachment of this nature shall be allowed in any of the courts of this Island from and after the first of this year. Existing attachments are of course protected.

No. 6. 13th April. The Ordinance gives greater facilities to the mail steamers to make this a coaling station. It relieves all vessels importing coal for their use from all dues except the Harbour Master's fees, and allows the coal to be landed and stored without payment of duty. These privileges were in part given by the Ordinance of 1840, which is repealed by the present enactment.

No. 7. 13th August. A steamer having been started by private enterprise to ply along the coast of this Island, it was deemed expedient to assist so desirable an object by giving a Government subsidy. Under this Ordinance an annual grant of 150*l.* is provided, subject to certain conditions.

No. 8. 13th August. This is the annual tax and appropriation Ordinance, and is similar to the one passed for the previous year. The estimated general revenue for 1868 is 14,355*l.*, and expenditure 14,333*l.* 4*s.*

No. 9. 13th August. This Ordinance covers a vote of 200*l.* for building additional wards to the Lunatic Asylum.

No. 10. 13th August. A great many Coolies having registered themselves for back passages, and it being anticipated that many more would follow their example, it was deemed advisable to authorize the Governor to issue bounty to those who might be desirous of commuting their claims to a free passage back to India for a sum of money. The amount fixed by the Ordinance is a sum not exceeding 10*l.* for adults, and not exceeding 5*l.* for children (infants excluded).

Works and Buildings.

15. The Government buildings have been repaired, the Poor Asylum greatly improved in a sanitary point of view, and in its internal arrangements for the purposes of an hospital, which it in reality is. The back cells in the Castries Gaol have been made more secure, additional wards commenced at the Lunatic Asylum (they are just completed). The piers of the suspension bridge in the Roseau Valley have been substantially repaired, and one of the bridges leading out of Castries entirely renewed, besides other works which need not be enumerated in detail.

Education.

16. The fund at the disposal of the Board of Education is unfortunately becoming less every year, owing, first, to the grant of 500*l.* from the general revenue not having been paid in 1864, because the Ordinance stipulated that it should be paid out of any surplus in the Treasury, and there was none in that year (since repealed and altered), and, next, to the diminished exportation of logwood, on which a duty of eight shillings per ton is imposed, and the proceeds carried to the education fund. No new school was opened during the year, but those in existence have been carried on with a slight increase in the number of scholars. There is no charge made in any of these schools.

Roman Catholic Schools.

Situation of School.	No. on Roll 1867.	No. on Roll 1866.	Average Attendance in 1867.	No. on Roll.	
				Boys.	Girls.
Castries (Convent) School	332	297	310	—	332
Do. (Adult) do.	126	92	63	126	—
Do. (Infant) do.	95	92	56	95	—
Soufriere do.	130	118	not returned	—	130
Micoud do.	93	67	67	53	40
Dennery do.	100	96	75	73	27
Gros Islet do.	94	102	33*	44	50
	970	874	—	391	579

* Average of girls only.

Mico Schools, taken from the return of the last quarter of the year.

Situation of School.	No. on Roll 1867.	No. on Roll 1866.	Average Attendance in 1867.	No. on Roll.	
				Boys.	Girls.
Castries (Adult)	101	102	66	101	—
Do. (Infant)	98	87	67	67	31
Soufriere (Adult)	145	125	80	119	26
Do. (Infant)	85	69	55	62	23
Anse La Roye	45	48	21	40	5
Choiseul	85	75	54	61	24
River Doree	84	79	50	52	32
Laborie	103	80	70	63	40
Vieux Fort	113	102	75	67	46
Micoud	57	61	30	44	13
Gros Islet	44	65	29	39	5
	960	893	591	715	245

The sum allotted ta the Mico Schools was 519*l.*, and the total expense of them during the year 1,571*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.*, the balance (1,052*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.* being contributed from the funds of the Charity). The sum placed at the disposal of the Roman Catholic Committee was 525*l*, out of which sum they made the following appropriations :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Castries Convent School	109	5	0
Castries (other) Schools	141	0	0
Soufriere School	95	0	0
Micoud do.	61	15	0
Dennery do.	57	0	0
Gros Isle t do.	55	0	0
Secretary to Committee	6	0	0
	£525	0	0

The total expenditure on education was 2,096*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.*

Prisoners.—Crime.

17. The Gaol Calendar shows that a greater number of persons were committed in 1867 than during the previous year, 592 as against 541. 39 of them were tried at the sessions, of whom 4 were acquitted, and 35 convicted. In one case, for "arson," the jury were discharged, as they could not agree upon their verdict. The prisoner was remanded until the next session, when he was convicted, and sentenced to three years hard labour. The longest term of imprisonment was 12 years. It was a case of cutting and wounding, in which sentence of death was recorded, but commuted to the term of hard labour mentioned. The other commitments were from the magistrates' courts, and for the most part for offences of a slight character. Shot "drill" has been recently introduced into the Castries Gaol as a penal exercise.

Agriculture.

18. The crop of the Island fell short of that of the previous year, as will be seen from the following table, which shows the quantity exported in each of the last five years.

ST. LUCIA.

Most of the rum made is consumed in the Colony, but almost the whole of the other articles included in the table are exported.

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Cocoa.	Cotton.
	lbs.	gallons.	gallons.	lbs.	lbs.
1863	8,725,125	111,200	15,297	251,733	1,652
1864	8,110,025	126,900	2,070	221,759	18,296
1865	8,579,146	119,900	16,638	289,097	11,390
1866	10,942,738	147,200	5,981	192,885	8,138
1867	9,626,380	175,100	10,102	286,170	6,347

The following is a comparative statement of the sugar shipped in 1866 and 1867, showing the number of packages.

	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.
Sugar shipped in 1866 -	7,176	1,345	6,528
„ „ 1867 -	6,356	990	5,446
Decrease in 1867 -	820	355	1,082

Immigration.

19. At the close of the year there were 1,207 Coolie immigrants in the Colony. Those by the first vessels, the Palmyra and Francis Ridley, completed their eight years' industrial residence in May and June. This year two other lots (by the Victor Emanuel and Zemindar) have fulfilled their time, and only those by the Ulysses remain to serve out the time required to qualify them to claim a free passage back to India. The first-named Coolies having evinced a disposition to avail themselves of their privilege to a back passage in great numbers, it was deemed advisable to give the Governor power to allow bounty (up to 10*l.*) to those who might desire to commute their right for a sum of money; and the plan adopted in British Guiana, requiring the Coolies registering for back passage to make a deposit to cover the expense of outfit for the voyage, was acted upon. Up to the present time nearly 400 have applied for and received bounty, and about 230 have registered for a passage to India in the autumn. Those who have received bounty have not yet shown any disposition (with a few exceptions) to quit the Island for the larger Colonies of Trinidad and Demerara, and it is to be hoped that they will settle down here, and become permanent colonists. The total cost of this immigration to the Colony, including the amount which will still have to be paid for the redemption of the 15,000*l.* loan and the interest upon it, will, I estimate, not fall far short of 40,000*l.* This outlay represents the services obtained from 1,535 persons of all ages for eight years (five of them under indenture), or 5,000*l.* a year. And a considerable deduction would have to be made from this number, which is the total number of Coolies, men, women, and children brought to the Colony, to arrive at the number of those who could be classed as efficient labourers. I do not find that the crops of the Island have been so much increased since their introduction as might have been expected, and I am afraid that if many leave the Island their loss will be seriously felt, for some estates are almost wholly dependent upon them now for labour. What is to be feared is, that the native labour, which the Coolies must to some extent at least have replaced, will not find its way back to the estates, and that as the Colony has not the means of continuing immigration the position of proprietors of estates will, after the great outlay which has taken place, be worse than before. It may be that the crops of the Island would have been diminished had there been no immigration. One thing is worthy of remark. In 1858, the year before immigration commenced, the crop was about the same as in 1853, which was the year before the year when cholera ravaged the Colony. I subjoin a table showing the amount of sugar exported in each year from 1853 to 1867 (inclusive), as illustrative of the remarks which I have made as to the effects of immigration. The condition of both Coolie and African immigrants during the past year has been uniformly favourable. During that period 125 of the former were admitted as patients into the "Free" Hospital, of whom 104 were discharged cured, and four removed by death. This institution will be closed at the end of the current quarter.

Year.	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.
1853	5,050	212	2,237
*1854	4,812	245	2,219 and 84 bags
1855	4,656	255	2,250
1856	4,198	212	2,431
1857	4,511	250	2,868
1858	5,086	388	3,552
†1859	5,397	423	4,780
‡1860	5,317	370	5,282
1861	5,853	501	6,496
§1862	5,934	584	5,203
1863	6,046	390	5,081
1864	5,539	265	5,308
1865	5,918	529	5,038
1866	7,176	1,345	6,528
1867	6,356	990	5,446

Miscellaneous.

20. The sanitary condition of the Island has been very good, and it has altogether escaped the ravages of earthquakes and hurricanes which have been so severely experienced in St. Thomas and other colonies.

Great hopes are entertained that this may be selected as one of the stations for the Mail Packet service. The harbour of Castries is admirably adapted for such a purpose, and less expense would have to be incurred here than probably at any other place in the West Indies. Its position too, as regards the termini, Southampton and Colon, is favourable. At present the steamers on the southern routes trans-ship and occasionally coal here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. GRANT.
Administrator.

His Excellency James Walker, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 158.)

MY LORD DUKE, Leeward Islands, Antigua, September 12, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1867, together with my report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. Tthe revenue is returned by the Treasurer at 52,215*l.* 1*s.* 7½*d.*, and the expenditure at 47,652*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, leaving an apparent surplus of 4,562*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*; this sum, however, includes balances in the treasury on account of special funds to the extent of 1,156*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, thus reducing the balance on account of the general revenue to 3,406*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.* But, as has been stated in previous reports, these returns exhibit receipts and payments at the Treasury, and do not represent the actual financial position of the Colony. When the outstanding assets and liabilities are taken into consideration, it will

* Cholera year.
† 552 Coolies brought to the Island in the Palmyra and Francis Ridley.
‡ 664 Coolies brought to the Island in the Victor Emanuel and Zemindar.
§ 319 Coolies brought to the Island in the Ulysses, and 179 Africans in that vessel and the Damietta.

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be seen that there was a deficit in the revenue of 7,548*l.*, notwithstanding that a sum of no less than 7,168*l.* had been raised by loans during the year in aid of the revenue.

Assets.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance in hand on 31st December 1867	3,406	0	4½
Outstanding revenue	642	9	7
Total	4,048	9	11½

Liabilities.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Due public officers and others to 31st December	2,903	1	4
Due militia fund	950	0	0
Due Her Majesty's Government for instalment of interest of loan, 1866 and 1867	7,743	15	0
	11,596	16	4
Less assets	4,048	9	11½
Excess of expenditure over revenue	7,548	6	4½

2. The amount returned as revenue includes the following loans which were obtained during the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From immigration fund	3,000	0	0
„ militia fund	950	0	0
„ local loan	300	0	0
„ Savings Bank	2,918	9	2
Total	7,168	9	2

3. The actual revenue derived from taxation for the year was therefore short of the expenditure by nearly 15,000*l.* This was in a great measure owing to the circumstance of no provision having been made in 1866 and 1867, during my absence from the Colony, for paying off the instalments and interest on the earthquake loan, amounting together to 10,650*l.*

4. The annual charges attending the cost of constructing the St. John's water-works, and the appointments made under the provisions of the Resident Magistrates' Act, have also tended to increase the expenditure of the past year.

5. There is no doubt that at the present moment, owing to adverse circumstances, and to the neglect to provide for the payment of the earthquake loan, that the expenditure of the Colony is considerably in excess of the Revenue. Means are now being adopted for reducing the expenditure, and for increasing the revenue.

6, In furtherance of this object, the following measures have recently been passed, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For imposing a tax on carriages, which will realize about	450	0	0
„ an increased excise duty	750	0	0
„ an excise duty on rum consumed on estates	1,000	0	0
Trade license imposed for 1868 and 1869	1,000	0	0
Total	3,200	0	0

Public Debt.

7. The public debt stands at 58,448*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* This includes the sum of 30,000*l.* borrowed for the construction of the St. John's waterworks.

Public Works.

8. Saint John's waterworks. This most important undertaking, for supplying the city of St. John with water, was commenced in September 1865, and finally completed in June 1867, at a cost of 30,000*l.* The reservoir is at an elevation of 145 feet above the

level of the sea, and contains 500,000 gallons of water. There are 14 standpipes in the city, from which water is taken without any restriction both by day and night. At intervals of 50 yards hydrants are laid down to the number of 220, for protecting the city in case of fire. The supply of water is estimated at about 75,000 gallons daily. The Water Commissioners report that the demand for house service is daily increasing. A supply pipe for the shipping has been carried to the public wharf. The advantages of the undertaking are not confined to the city, but extended to the populous villages of Gray's Hill, Gray's Farm, Green Bay, a large portion of Five Islands district, Saint Mark's and Bishop's villages. Water has also been introduced at the Gaol, Police Office, Holberton Hospital, Poor House, and Lazaretto.

9. The fire brigade is by an act of the Island placed under the charge of the Water Commissioners, and they have recently imported two of Messieurs Shands and Mason's reel and ladder carriages, carrying 800 feet of hose, together with ladders, and all necessary tools and implements.

The Saint John's Public Cemetery.

10. The funds necessary for enclosing the Public Cemetery have been voted, and the work has now been completed. The cemetery will be opened in October, and the burial grounds within the city will be closed on that date.

Legislation.

11. Twenty nine Acts were passed during the year. Ten relate to the revenue. Six are for continuing certain Acts. Among the most important measures of the session of 1867 may be mentioned the Act for making better provision for the conduct of the Executive Government of the Island of Antigua. This Act relieves the Colonial Secretary from the duties heretofore devolving on him as Registrar and Secretary of the several Courts of Record in the Island, and creates the office of Auditor General at a salary of 400*l.* per annum.

The Act to re-organize the fire brigade.

The Act to define the jurisdiction of the Vice-Chancellor.

The Act for appointing district marriages.

The Cotton Act.

The Act to facilitate the auditing and inspecting of public accounts.

The Act for the more effectual protection of Her Majesty's naval and victualling stores.

Political Franchise.

12. The Act to amend and simplify the Legislature of Antigua reduces the number of electoral districts from 14 to 11, but the qualifications for members and voters, as fixed by the Franchise Act of 1842, are not in any way altered. Four hundred and twenty-six voters are registered for the whole Island.

13. The number of registered voters for the several divisions is as follows:

Division.	No. of Representatives.	Registered Voters.
1. City of St. John -	2	235
2. Division of St. John - -	1	35
3. Dickenson's Bay and Five Islands	1	7
4. Popeshead - - -	1	1
5. Old Road - - -	1	54
6. Parham - - -	1	32
7. Old North Sound - -	1	19
8. Nonsuch - - -	1	16
9. Belfast - - - -	1	10
10. Willoughby Bay - -	1	5
11. Falmouth and English Harbour -	1	14

14. The newly constituted Legislature consists of twenty-four members, namely, the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney General and Solicitor General, who are ex-officio members, eight members nominated by the Crown, and twelve members chosen by the qualified electors of the several divisions.

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Population.—Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

15. It is gratifying to remark that a very considerable improvement has within the two last years been observable in the health of the Colony. The returns of the Registrar General show that the death-rates for the years 1866 and 1867 have been considerably lower than in the four previous years.

Year.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
1862	1,738	4·77
1863	1,734	4·76
1864	1,750	4·80
1865	1,754	4·26
1866	1,310	3·51
1867	1,403	3·85 per cent.

16. The birth-rate is the highest registered since the operation of the Registration Act.

BIRTHS from 1862.

1862	1,072
1863	1,407
1864	1,407
1865	1,417
1866	1,353
1867	1,531

17. The number of marriages solemnized for each of the years from 1862 to 1867 is as follows:

1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
150	163	166	160	183	172

Education.

18. A grant of 1,000*l.* per annum is made by the Legislature of the Colony for educational purposes. In 1867, 49 schools were in receipt of Government aid, of which 20 were Church of England, 21 Moravian, and 8 Wesleyan, having together 3,218 names on the books, and 1,797 children in attendance, showing a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 287 on the books and 325 in average attendance.

Imports and Exports.

19. The comparative value of imports and exports for the years 1866 and 1867 is shown below:

Imports:—1866, 187,704*l.*
1867, 189,880*l.* } Increase 2,176*l.*

Exports:—1866, 291,860*l.*
1867, 141,076*l.* } Decrease 150,784*l.*

20. The crop of 1867 was but 7,050 hogsheads, against 17,300 shipped in 1866. This circumstance, together with the reduced rate at which cotton has been valued, will explain the cause of the great falling off in the value of the exports. The cotton crop shows a small decrease as compared with 1866.

1866, 590,091 lbs.
1867, 576,775 „ } Decrease 13,316 lbs.

Shipping.

21. The shipping returns, owing to the short sugar crop, exhibit a corresponding decline.

	Entered.	Cleared.
	Tons.	Tons.
1866,	29,564	28,498
1867,	23,852	20,054

Crime.

22. The total commitments for the last three years have been as follow:—

Years.	Queen's Bench.	Police Magistrate.	Total.
1865	39	880	919
1866	41	672	713
1867	43	738	781

The total number of summary convictions before the police magistrate:—

1865	3,912
1866	3,298
1867	3,553

Literary Institution.

23. The Antigua Public Library is under the direction of 13 trustees, appointed by the Governor. There are 39 first-class subscribers, paying 20*s.* per annum, and 34 second-class subscribers, paying 10*s.* per annum. The salary of the clerk, 80*l.* per annum, is paid from the public treasury; and a yearly grant of 50*l.* is made by the Colonial Government for the purchase of books. The books belonging to the library exceed 5,500 volumes. The trustees report that the interest taken in this valuable institution was manifested in the year 1867 by the delivery of 7,948 volumes, of which 1,665 were books on history, biography, science, and art.

Charitable Institution.

24. Holberton Hospital.—This hospital is supported by an annual grant of 1,250*l.* from the public treasury. The number of patients during the year, and the results, have been as follows:

Remaining in hospital on 31st December 1866		69
Admitted in 1867		431
Total		500
Discharged cured	228	
„ relieved	63	
Died	127	
		418
Remaining in hospital on 31st December 1867		82
Total		500

The number of out-door patients treated during the year was 1,182. In the lying-in ward, 50 births took place, and 62 seamen were admitted to the seaman's ward.

Lunatic Asylum.

25. Supported by a grant of 1,015*l.* per annum from the Government. There were 43 inmates in the asylum on the 31st December.

Poor House.

26. Supported by a fixed annual grant of 2,000*l.* An additional grant of 500*l.* has of late been granted to this institution.

The number of paupers receiving relief on the 31st December was as follows:

Out-door paupers	114
Poor House	193
Lazaretto	30
Total	337

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 135.)

MY LORD DUKE, Leeward Islands, Antigua, August 4, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of Montserrat for 1867, together with the annual report thereon from Mr. President Pyne.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c &c.

Enclosure in No. 13.

President PYNE to his Excellency Colonel HILL, C.B.

(No. 56.)

Government House, Plymouth,
Montserrat, July 19, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1867, with my report thereon.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The most important alteration in these sources of revenue has been the abolition of the poor rates, which amounted to about 700*l.* per annum. This reduction was conceived solely as a means of relief to the taxpayers as the taxation of the country was found to be somewhat excessive.

By an amendment in the Tariff Act, passed towards the close of 1867, the following articles were exempted from duty, in addition to those previously admitted free, viz., "machinery for the manufacture of sugar, lime-juice, or cotton, ploughs, "hoe-harrows, chaff-cutters, cane-bills, manures, hoes, and oil-cake." At the same time the ad valorem duty on imports not specifically taxed was raised from 7½ to 10 per cent.

There has been no variation in the fees charged in the Colony from those of last year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The principal sources of revenue are the import and export duties and the land tax, the latter being at the rate of 15*s.* per 100*l.* of the assessed value of all real property. At present these taxes are supplemented with an additional five per cent. as "wharf tax," which augmentation, however, will cease at the end of the current year.

The year 1867 commenced with a deficit of 282*l.* against 680*l.* of the previous year. The aggregate revenue received during the year amounted to 4,007*l.*, being 1,036*l.* less than in 1866. This falling off is attributable mainly to diminished receipts from imports and exports, cotemporaneously with the termination of special taxes raised to cover certain unusual disbursements of the preceding year. It is gratifying, however, to observe, that, accompanying this loss of revenue, was a considerable reduction in the expenditure, which stood at 3,710*l.*, against 4,126*l.* of the year 1866.

The following is a statement of the current public account for 1867, on the 31st of December last:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
To balance in chest, 31st Dec. 1867	15	2	4½	By arrears of expenditure of 1867 -	314	6	5½
Arrear of revenue of 1867 - -	63	14	6				
	78	16	10½				
Deficit of 1867 on current accounts -	235	9	7				
£	314	6	5½	£	314	6	5½

It is difficult within the narrow space prescribed in these tables of revenue and expenditure to distinguish definitely the items which strictly belong to the finance of each particular year, as the transactions, obligations, and repayments of other years are often unavoidably welded together.

Thus it would appear from the figures before us that the balance at the wrong side at the end of 1867 was 235*l.*, against 282*l.* of the previous 12 months, and against 680*l.* of the year 1865.

These figures are technically correct, as representing mere records of each year's monetary transactions, but they are worthless as indicating any just comparison of the true deficits of each year, which must be sought rather in a statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities for each successive period.

The following memorandum represents the excess of the country's liabilities over assets for the last five years:—

	£
1863	5,029
1864	4,818
1865	5,205
1866	4,202
1867	3,549

Public Debt.

The public debt of 1867 is less than that of 1866 by 653*l.*, viz.:—

1866.	1867.
4,202	3,549

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Under this head, at the end of 1867, is included the liability to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury on account of the Earthquake loan of 1843, amounting to		3,035 8 0
Payable in six equal annual instalments, with interest at 3¼ per cent. Of this debt is the balance on 3,000*l.* originally borrowed for the restoration of the public buildings injured by the earthquake of 1843, and is the balance on 7,118*l.* due by the default of private borrowers, and for which the Colony is made liable.	900 0 0 2,135 8 0	
Also the currency debt, of which is the balance remaining due on 378*l.* 14*s.* 3½*d.*, with interest at six per cent., raised in 1865 by debentures, under Act of the Legislature, for the purpose of meeting the loss in taking up the mutilated currency of the Island.		278 14 3½

These bonds are payable as under:

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
No. 2.	128	1	4¾	in July 1868.
No. 3.	100	0	0	in August 1869.
No. 4.	50	12	10¾	in August 1870.
	£278	14	3½	

	3,314 2 3½
Ordinary arrear of current accounts at the end of 1866 brought forward to 1867	235 0 0
	£3,549 2 3½

Public Roads.

Bad roads are proverbially characteristic of mountainous countries. The highways of Montserrat are not, however, below the average of what would be found in

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localities of similar geographical formation. The mode of repairing the roads has hitherto been of a very primitive kind. Some of the most intelligent of the road surveyors have recently commenced to macadamize, and, as might be expected, the portions of the road so repaired have become substantial and useful for traffic.

All the public roads of the Island are annually repaired by statute labour, under a Road Act which renders every person between the ages of 16 and 60 liable to serve for fixed periods during the year, or else to provide a substitute.

This Act works very satisfactorily, and the inhabitants accept the necessity for some such provision, and give cheerfully that portion of their labour which is required of them.

It was, perhaps, through an oversight in passing this law, that no exemptions were made for professional men. At present even the clergymen of the Island are summoned out "to attend with a hoe, bill or cutlass, and a basket, and at the hour of seven o'clock "in the morning, then and there to labour repairing the highways, as directed, for the "full time of eight hours, under the penalty of 1*s.* sterling for each day, to be recovered "as the Act directs."

Legislation.

Nine Acts were passed by the Legislature in 1867, viz.:—

1. "An Act to grant to Her Majesty a tax or duty on certain articles exported from this Island."
2. "An Act to give jurisdiction to justices of the peace to punish summarily petty thefts and aiders and abettors therein."
3. "An Act to abolish the office of Loan Commissioners, and to transfer the duties to the Treasurer of the said Island."
4. "An Act to naturalize Antonio Cruz."
5. "An Act to naturalize Joseph Figara and John Defratés."
6. "An Act to provide for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Montserrat."
7. "An Act to provide for the execution of the duties of the office of coroner."
8. "An Act for the regulation of weights and measures."
9. "An Act to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the care of the poor and lunatic."

Proclamations.

The proclamations were entirely of a local nature, and needed no comment.

Civil Establishment.

The establishment in 1866 and previously was very large for this small Colony, and efforts have since been made to effect a reduction.

The cost of supporting so large a staff of officials is disproportionate to the necessity for its existence, and is more than the country can afford.

The following reductions have been made:—

Office.	Salaries. From	Salaries. To
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
The Queen's Counsel	131 5 0	80 0 0
Coroners	27 5 4	Nil.
Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages	15 0 0	7 10 0
Inspector of Weights and Measures	20 0 0	Nil.
*Loan Commissioners	60 0 0	Nil.
Inspector of Police	120 0 0	Nil.
*Sergeant at Arms	12 0 0	Nil.
Clerk of Assembly	70 0 0	40 0 0
Post Office	48 0 0	40 0 0
Treasury Officer under Tariff Act	20 0 0	6 0 0
Do. Messenger	12 0 0	6 0 0
Gunner at Fort Barrington	12 0 0	Nil.
£	547 10 4	179 10 0

Being a reduction of 368*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

The Police Magistrate is made ex officio the Coroner, without additional remuneration. The Provost Marshal is made by law Inspector of Weights, &c. also, without additional remuneration. The office of Inspector of Police is held gratuitously,

The appointments marked with an asterisk were altogether abolished. These retrenchments have not impaired the efficiency of the service in the slightest degree.

It will be borne in mind also that these reductions were made simultaneously with the remission of the poor rates, which caused a diminution of the revenue of 700*l.* per annum, already referred to under the head of Taxes, &c.

It was likewise found necessary to create the office of Auditor of Public Accounts, at a salary of 90*l.* a year, as much irregularity arose from the custom of having the accounts periodically audited by unpaid committees appointed by the House of Assembly. These committees never did their work with anything approaching to correctness or efficiency.

Towards the end of 1867 a regular system of book-keeping by double entry was introduced in the Treasury, and I am glad to be able to state that the management of the financial departments of the Government is creditable and satisfactory.

Population.

The population is estimated at 8,480, increasing at the rate of 1·82 per cent. per annum. No census has been taken since 1861, but I should say that this estimate is tolerably correct.

	Number.
Population by census of 1861	7,645
Registered births for 1862 to 1867	1,762
Registered deaths for same period	927
Increase by births in six years	835
Estimated population in 1867	8,480

Average annual increase of 139$\frac{1}{6}$ or 1·82 per cent.

I subjoin a comparative statement of births, marriages, and deaths for the years 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Number of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1864	304	62	43	91	108
1865	248	44	52	81	71
1866	347	55	52	121	119
1867	290	48	45	88	109
	1,189	209	192	381	407
	average per annum 297·25	per cent. 33·67.		per cent. 66·33.	

DEATHS.

Year.	Number of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 years and over one year.		One year and under.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1864	163	44	57	18	11	16	17
1865	148	50	45	8	11	20	12
1866	159	39	61	11	13	20	15
1867	158	35	66	11	14	14	18
	628	168	229	48	49	70	62
	average per annum 157.	per cent. 63·21.		per cent. 15·44.		per cent. 21·02.	

MONTSERRAT.

MARRIAGES.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
21	18	28	30

The births have been 57 less than in 1866 and the deaths one less.

It is gratifying, however, to observe the continuance of the large excess of births over deaths for the year itself, the former being nearly double the latter.

Political Franchise.

The last general election in this Island was held in December 1865, the result of which was a return of representatives the majority of whom seem to have been specially charged by their constituents with the obligation of effecting a complete change in the form of government under which the country had lingered for so many years past. Accordingly, the first step of the new Legislature was the abrogation of the Legislative Assembly, and a repeal of all Acts creating or amending the same.

Provision was at the same time made for the formation of a Legislative Council, to be constituted entirely of Crown nominees, to be nominated from time to time by Her Majesty the Queen, under Her Royal Warrant or Her Sign Manual or Signet, or by Her instructions through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State.

Thus has passed away the last remnant of representative government in this Island, after un uninterrupted existence of 200 years.

In Montserrat the white population is only one per cent. of the whole. It has never, apparently, assumed a much larger proportion. The educated classes were conspicuously in a minority, consequently the wholesome influence of public opinion, which is the mainstay of representative government, was entirely wanting.

The people have now voluntarily surrendered their electoral privileges; a power which they seem never to have understood, and therefore never to have appreciated. It would, however, appear, that though the mass were wholly ignorant of the legitimate use of the formidable weapon which they wielded, the most enlightened of them were obviously alive to the disastrous consequences of its misuse.

In bygone days, when resident proprietors were at hand, the country commanded the accumulated wisdom and intelligence of the land. These gentlemen had both leisure and capacity to devote to the interests of the country, and they took their seats in the Legislature without opposition. The elections were mere formal gatherings of such a moiety of the electors as cared to attend, and the inhabitants generally were utterly indifferent as to the choice of candidates, their only anxiety being that there should be no lack of the usual festivities to celebrate the occasion.

It is now, I think, universally admitted that the only suitable and effective form of government for small and isolated communities is that which is enjoyed in what are termed Crown Colonies, where the executive administration is under the immediate control of the Crown, and where the evils which flow from irresponsible government cannot exist; for experience has shown that under certain conditions what is ordinarily termed "responsible government" is quite consistent with the utter absence of any individual responsibility whatever.

Among the results of the emancipation was the growth of that unhappy system of absenteeism which, nearer home, was the bane of Ireland. And, under the entirely altered circumstances which followed, proprietors became replaced by agents, whose whole time and energy were necessarily devoted to the management of their estates. They, struggling on, ever anxious and hardworked, had no time to devote to local politics.

The people now, for the first time left to themselves, found that they would in future have to select their representatives from among a new class of candidates who presented themselves on the hustings, and henceforth it would seem that the Legislature, as constituted, did not command the respect and confidence of the bulk of the population.

From my own observation, I should say that the change in the constitution was not accomplished before it was peremptorily needed.

I found the country bowed down with the weight of an unwise and inequitable taxation; more than half the sugar plantations deserted and out of cultivation; not a public building left that was habitable; 5,000*l.* of debt, and the salaries of the public officers many months in arrear; nothing, in short, remaining of the old régime but the records of its effete and languishing existence.

Agriculture.

It will be observed that there has been a considerable diminution in the export of sugar in 1867, as compared with the immediately preceding years. As a counterpoise to this, however, I may state that the crop for 1868 is singularly abundant.

I subjoin a statement of the quantities of the export of agricultural produce for the years 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Principal Articles of Export.

Year.	Sugar.				Rum.	Molasses.	Lime Juice.	
							Raw.	Concentrated.
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Hs. of Concrete.	Puns.	Puns.	Puns.	Puns.
1864	209	290	510	343,166	2	295	—	93
1865	223	811	1,021	296,004	—	238½	—	113
1866	283	1,405	1,227	431,828	19	393	—	30
1867	105	954	565	157,078	—	176	16	65½

Year.	Tamarinds.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Goats.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cotton.	Firewood.	Total Value of Exports.
	Brls.						lbs.	Cords.	£ s. d.
1864	499	17	734	116	96	358	—	—	19,510 16 4
1865	117	13	336	11	10	198	8,500	—	20,915 15 4
1866	124	12	124	8	11	19	18,137	386	19,898 0 9
1867	196	9	314	23	11	87	28,817	402	13,952 13 4

There has been an increase in the production of cotton, but the Island generally is found to be unfavourable to the growth of this plant. The almost perennial moisture which overhangs the mountains, while it is the sugar planters' best friend, is prejudicial to the crops of the cotton grower, the effect of dampness being to rot the pod before it arrives at maturity, often even before it blossoms.

Notwithstanding the large amount of uncultivated properties which hang idle for want of capital to work them, I have no fear as to the future prospects of the Colony. Montserrat will, I anticipate, generally improve, and eventually regain a position in wealth and prosperity by no means behind other West Indian islands.

The largest landowners in the Colony are the Messrs. Sturge of Birmingham. They have invested considerable sums of money in the reclamation of abandoned estates, and by their success and industry other proprietors are stimulated to exertion. This firm have extensively embarked in the cultivation of the lime tree, and this branch of their undertaking, I am informed, is both promising and remunerative. The lime juice which is yielded is exported both in its raw state, for the use more especially of the royal navy and the mercantile marine, and in a concentrated form, to be converted by chemical process in England into citric acid. There is every reason to anticipate that there will continue to be a ready market for this kind of produce, and that ultimately it will prove a source of wealth to the country. It is a species of trade which is capable of high developement, and the lime tree flourishes remarkably well in this Island.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

The following is a summary of the particulars of this department:

	Paid from the Consolidated Fund.	Paid from the Local Treasury.	Duty for which Payment is made.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Rector of SS. Anthony and Patrick's	40 0 0	207 15 6	General ministration to their respective congregations.
Rector of St. Peter's	—	180 0 0	

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

Roman Catholic - - - - -	Nil.	Supported by voluntary contributions.	General ministration to their respective congregations.
Wesleyan - - - - -	Nil.		

Education.

There are nine day schools in connection with the Church of England. The number of scholars on the school books is 591, 283 boys and 308 girls, with an average attendance of 189 boys and 206 girls. There are also three Sunday schools, with an average attendance of 160 boys and 200 girls. The salaries of the teachers, amounting to 108*l.*, are paid from the Consolidated Fund. The Colony has hitherto contributed nothing towards the maintenance of these schools, but 50*l.*, as a commencement, was voted for this service in the estimates for the current year.

The denominational schools in the Colony are chiefly supported by voluntary contributions recived from England.

The Roman Catholic day school is at present closed from want of funds for its support.

The Wesleyans have four schools, with an average attendance of 67 boys and 55 girls; and three Sunday schools, with an average attendance of 145 boys and 214 girls.

Shipping.

The shipping may be said to have been identical with that of the previous year. The following is a schedule of the vessels entered and cleared during the year 1867:—

Countries.	Entered from		Cleared for	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom - -	4	569	4	569
British West Indies -	141	3,998	134	4,245
British North America -	11	777	4	512
Swedish West Indies -	3	12	3	12
Totals - -	159	5,356	145	5,338

From May to October 1867 an Admiralty survey was commenced and terminated. This survey was conducted by the West Indian Survey Department, under the command of Captain Parsons, R.N. It embraced the interior of the Island as well as the surrounding waters, and was of a minute and comprehensive nature. The result has established, that though the Colony possesses no land-locked harbour for shipping, yet that good and safe anchorage is to be found in the roadstead. Authentic charts can by now in all probability be obtained by application at the Hydrographical Department of the Admiralty.

Gaols and Prisons.

The subjoined tabular statement supplies the necessary information on this subject:—

PRISONERS in CONFINEMENT during the year 1867.

On 31st March.		30th June.		30th September.		31st December.		Greatest Number in Confinement at any one Time.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5	4	11	3	15	8	17	—	17	10

COMMITMENTS during the year.

For Debt.		By the Superior Court.		By Justices on Summary Conviction.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
29	3	9	4	87	72

Charitable Institutions.

There are no charitable institutions in this Colony maintained by voluntary contributions. The only establishments of this nature are the Poor House, Hospital, and Lunatic Asylum, kept up entirely at the public expense. The number of the inmates at any one time averages from 50 to 60, at a monthly charge of 54*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Currency and Weights and Measures.

The currency is nominally the same as in Great Britain, though the Spanish and American gold and silver coins are current, and colonial bank notes of the neighbouring islands are also in general circulation.

The weights and measures are the imperial standard.

General.

This Colony still continues to merits its enviable reputation of being the most healthy of the Antilles.

The inhabitants are eminently of an orderly and quiet disposition, respectful to those in authority and obedient to the laws.

There is a plentiful demand for labour.

Excellent fish abound close to the coasts. Fruit is everywhere abundant, and the cultivation of vegetables and all ground crops needs but slight attention. Hence there is no excuse for extreme destitution; yet the amount of 650*l.* now defrayed from the general revenue, and annually expended in relief to the poor, is, in comparison with the number of the population and comparative cheapness of provisions, exceedingly high. The old and infirm must always remain a legitimate charge on the country's resources; but it is hoped that a stringent Vagrant Act will shortly absolve the Government from the necessity of maintaining in idleness indolent persons who should be earning their own livelihood.

Writing now in the middle of the year 1868, I might add that many extensive improvements have been effected in some of the public buildings and institutions. The Courthouse has been thoroughly repaired, and re-roofed, with an outside covering of corrugated galvanized iron; a material which is found best suited to withstand the heavy rains and deteriorating effects of a tropical climate.

Extra cells, substantially built and well ventilated, are now available in the Lunatic Asylum.

A plentiful supply of fresh water has been secured for the use of the Poor House and Hospital by leading down and through the premises one of the mountain streams.

Additional accommodation has likewise been obtained in the Gaol, and Mr. Moule's dry earth conservancy system of sewage has been introduced with admirable success into every public department of the Island.

These matters will, however, more appropriately form the subject of the report to accompany the Blue Book for the year 1868.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. PYNE,
President.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

No. 14.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hill, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

(No. 170.)

My Lord Duke, Leeward Islands, Antigua, September 19, 1868.

I have the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Kitt's, forwarding the Blue Book of that Colony for the year 1867.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

Lieutenant-Governor Mackenzie to Governor Hill, C.B.

(No. 129.)

Sir, Government House, St. Kitts, September 17, 1868.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1867, with the following report thereon, which I trust will be found satisfactory.

Legislation.

In the year 1867 several Acts of an important character were passed, of which the most noticeable are those which were rendered necessary by the great fire which destroyed the town of Basseterre on the night of the 3rd July 1867.

By these Acts, Nos. 13 and 14 respectively, provision is made for the purchase of such lands and walls as may be required, in order to widen and straighten the streets and generally improve the appearance of the town, as well as add materially to its security by blocking up the narrow alleys that formerly made the spread of fire so difficult to prevent. The tax imposed by Act No. 13. is also destined to provide a fund for obtaining an adequate supply of water, which, it is estimated, can be done at a cost of about 6 or 7,000*l*.

The cost of the town improvements, it is supposed, will be about 7 or 8,000*l*., and the tax imposed for three years will in all probability produce in that time the amount necessary to defray the expense of both undertakings, by which the town of Basseterre will be so materially improved.

The Act in question imposes an additional tax of 25 per centum upon the amount of the several duties on imports, exports, and liquor licences, payable under Acts Nos. 95, 113, 133, and 220.

In the course of the same year two Acts were passed, Nos. 9 and 17, 1867, re-constituting the vestry of Anguilla.

The number of the vestry has been reduced from 13 to 7 members. The former number was much in excess of that which so small a community could hope to furnish respectably.

As the Militia Act expired in the month of August 1867, a new Act was passed (No. 11, 1867), in no way different from the Act previously in force, except that the 44th clause of Act No. 187, dated the 16th August 1862, which was deemed to approach too nearly to the legalization of martial law, was omitted.

The continual increase of the expenditure at the Cunningham Hospital induced the Legislature to pass an Act (No. 12, 1867,) by which a limitation of the number of patients to be admitted into the hospital was fixed. The law provides that no more shall be received than the establishment can conveniently hold, although more than double that number had been frequently crowded into its wards. In other respects the new Act is very similar to No. 226, of the 18th December 1865, which preceded it.

The only other Act of any importance passed in 1867 is No. 16, for regulating

burials. This Act provides that a medical certificate of the cause of death shall be produced before any corpse may be legally interred.

Basseterre Corporation.

This institution which was brought into existence by Sir Benjamin Pine in the year 1861, did not answer the expectation of its founder. The original Act, No. 175, dated 6th May 1861, had to be altered in many respects by Act No. 212, dated 31st January 1865, and even with the amendments contained in the last-mentioned Act it failed to work satisfactorily, and ultimately had to be abolished by the Act No. 1, 1868, which was passed by the Legislature at the end of year 1867. The town of Basseterre is now placed under the supervision of the Surveyor of Roads and Superintendent of Public Buildings, who is responsible to the Governor alone for due order and cleanliness of the town.

Public Buildings.

The public buildings are all in good order, and require very little to be expended upon them. The two piers in the town of Basseterre suffered very much from a gale of wind and swelling of the sea in October last; the estimated cost of repairing them, 662*l.*, has been recently voted in the estimates for this year, and the work is now in hand, and they will soon be in good order. The once beautiful church of St. George's remains in the ruinous condition in which the fire in July last year left it; the Legislature has recently passed a Bill authorizing the Governor to borrow from the loan to be raised in England the sum of 8,000*l.*, in order to effect its restoration. This amount is to be repaid by continuing the 25 per cent. additional tax on all imports and exports for three years longer, and I am in anxious hope that the measure will be sanctioned by Her Majesty. In the meantime Divine service is held in the Poore Memorial schoolroom on Sundays, and the weekday services (Wednesday and Friday), together with the administration of the Holy Communion, every other Sunday in the small chapel of ease in Irish Town, which has lately been put into excellent order by private subscriptions.

Prisons.

I have so recently given my reasons in my Despatch No. 50, dated 16th March 1868, why the improvements recommended by the Secretary of State in respect of the separate system, and the working of the prisoners sentenced to hard labour within the walls of the prison, instead of on the roads and streets, cannot now be carried out, that I have nothing more to add on this head of the service.

The following return shows the number of prisoners committed during the years 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867, with some particulars which may be interesting on this head.

RETURN of PRISONERS committed to Gaol in the years 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867.

Year.	Number of Prisoners committed.					Greatest number of Prisoners in confinement in any one day.					Smallest number of Prisoners in confinement in any one day.					Greatest number of Prisoners at hard labour on any one day.		Smallest number of Prisoners at hard labouron any one day.		Greatest number sick on any one day.			Smallest number sick on any one day.		
	Criminals and Misdemeanants.		Debtors.		Total.	Criminals and Misdemeanants.		Debtors.		Total.	Criminals and Misdemeanants.		Debtors.		Total.											
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1863	358	62	21	7	448	85	15	5	4	109	29	4	1	–	34	62	8	12	6	8	2	10	3	–	3
1864	402	111	32	10	555	72	29	5	5	111	33	3	–	1	37	68	6	26	3	15	–	15	1	–	1
1865	240	92	29	7	368	55	16	5	2	78	36	2	3	–	41	47	7	26	5	9	–	9	1	–	1
1866	263	86	31	11	391	62	14	3	1	80	25	2	1	1	29	48	4	17	–	6	2	8	1	–	1
1867	310	130	26	5	471	47	28	3	–	78	2	–	–	–	2	32	9	2	–	8	4	12	1	1	2

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Island keeps up steadily, and no fresh taxation has been deemed necessary during the last year, except that already alluded to under the head of Legisla-

ST. KITTS.

tion, for improving the town of Basseterre. The revenue and expenditure for the last ten years were as follows :

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1858	23,356 19 5	17,013 10 10
1859	17,844 10 10	18,105 15 0
1860	20,691 7 1	21,723 6 5
1861	20,283 5 1	21,433 18 1
1862	22,292 15 11	21,371 15 10
1863	21,972 2 3	22,154 12 0
1864	19,445 5 6	21,257 5 4
1865	23,476 3 1	22,259 7 10
1866	24,504 12 5	24,925 17 6
1867	26,317 1 7	26,092 17 6

Thus it will be seen that for the last three years the revenue has just been about equal to the expenditure. The balance in the treasury on the 31st of December 1867 was 10,748*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, but this balance was available for the salaries and other standing charges incurred during the last quarter of the year 1867.

Imports and Exports.

The following returns of the imports and exports for five years, from 1863 to 1867 inclusive, show that the prosperity of the Island has not retrograded.

RETURN of IMPORTS from 1863 to 1867 inclusive.

Year.	Goods liable to specific Duty sterling.	Goods liable to ad valorem Duty sterling.	Goods admitted free of Duty sterling.	Total value of Imports sterling.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863	89,442 3 8	51,882 4 0	10,540 15 11	151,885 3 7
1864	129,136 16 10	46,617 10 7	12,914 12 7	188,669 0 0
1865	76,977 9 9	60,728 19 9	13,687 15 11	151,394 5 5
1866	83,350 2 1	79,097 19 5	13,695 6 8	176,143 8 2
1867	81,097 16 8	79,210 10 0	13,177 18 5	173,486 5 1

By the foregoing return it will be seen that the trade of the Island keeps up steadily, there being very little difference in the several heads of the value of the importations, especially for the years 1866 and 1867.

RETURN of EXPORTS from the Island of St. Christopher from 1863 to 1867.

Year.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.			Tous lès mois and Arrowroot.	Salt.	Potatoes.
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.	Brls.			
									Lbs.	Brls.	Brls.
1863	10,508	175	7,359	1,045	16	3,022	2	148	69,848	10,666	441
1864	5,188	220	4,776	321	15	1,850	—	12	118,420	23,207	1,458
1865	11,116	250	9,688	1,147	25	4,626	1	125	169,299	33,308	1,862
1866	11,022	299	6,770	862	12	3,582	2	124	57,575	32,774	2,520
1867	9,457	193	5,424	552	8	3,957	3	82	10,165	23,256	3,796

Year.	Other Produce Value. Sterling.	Value of Exports the Produce of the Island. Sterling.	Value of Exports not the Produce of the Island. Sterling.	Total Value of all Exports. Sterling.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863	743 15 8	159,152 7 4	16,533 13 10	175,686 1 2
1864	1,522 15 0	110,953 4 3	14,455 0 10	125,408 5 1
1865	1,477 18 9	182,689 9 7	13,485 16 4	196,175 5 11
1866	794 4 3	152,922 7 10	20,468 19 10	173,391 7 8
1867	867 9 0	177,806 16 7	10,332 10 5	188,139 7 0

The above return shows a falling off in the crop of 1867, occasioned by a dry season; nevertheless the estimated value of the produce of that year has exceeded that of the preceding one, owing probably to the increased value of West Indian produce in the English market.

Education.

The following statement from the Principal of the Grammar School, who is ex-officio Inspector of Schools, will I trust be satisfactory. It appears that the fire of last year affected the interest of the Grammar School as well as other institutions:—

"The average number of pupils for the year 1867 was 18¼.

"The year commenced with 25 old pupils and one new, but ended with 11 only, the diminution arising from six boys having gone in due course to England, two leaving for private causes, two away from long illness, and six leaving through the effects of the disastrous fire in Basseterre. This last-mentioned cause has also operated to preclude many new pupils from being entered at the Grammar School, one only having been added to the opening number of 26.

"As regards the standard of the school work, it may not be irrelevant to remark, that the parents of pupils who have been sent to England have without exception given the most favourable reports of the standing and progress of their sons."

Of the industrial schools the Inspector makes the following report:

	Average Number of Pupils attending daily during the Year.	Amount of Fees received from the Children.
Church of England Schools - -	628	$ 589·08
Wesleyan „ - -	436	$ 407·79
Moravian „ - - -	400	$ 416·21
Grand Totals - -	1,464	$ 1,413·08

"The average of daily attendances shows an increase of 115 over that of the year 1866, and the amount of fees an increase of $ 35·51.

"The increase in attendance would have been considerably more, but for the effect produced during the last two quarters of the year by the fire.

"The number of names sent in from the different schools for the Christmas public examination was 95, and the number of children in actual attendance 72, showing an increase respectively of 8 and 11 over the corresponding numbers for 1866. The prizes were fairly merited, and the general result of the examination satisfactory. The teachers as a body are at the present time much superior to those of bygone years."

General.

The year 1867 was fraught with much distress to the inhabitants of the town of Basseterre by the great fire of the 3d July, which destroyed, with some few exceptions, every building, and thereby rendered homeless several thousand of its inhabitants. Happily, by prompt and energetic measures, carried out by the Relief Committee whom I appointed on the occasion, food and clothing were liberally distributed to the suffering poor through a grant from the Legislature of this Island, as well as by liberal contributions from England and the neighbouring Islands; a number of small tenements have since been erected out of these funds, which afford shelter to such poor families as were entirely destitute of the means of rebuilding their houses.

I must take this opportunity of publicly thanking all those kind friends, far and near, who so generously came to our aid at such a trying time.

The health of the Island, notwithstanding all the distress entailed by the calamity just referred to, has, I am thankful to say, under Providence, been very good, and to all appearance things are looking brighter, and the people are cheerful and happy.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief, Antigua.

(Signed) J. G. MACKENZIE,
Lieutenant Governor.

Nevis.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hill, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

(No. 159.)

My Lord Duke, Leeward Islands, Antigua, August 26, 1868.

I have the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of Nevis for the year 1867, together with the usual report thereon by the Lieutenant Governor of that Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Captain Mackenzie to Colonel Hill.

Sir, Government House, Saint Kitts, July 1, 1868.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for Nevis, with the following observations thereon.

Taxes and Duties.

The duties on imports and exports are the same as they have been since 1857, with very little alteration.

The state of the finances rendered it necessary that a loan should be negotiated at the Colonial Bank, for 1,157*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, to repay which a tax of 25 per cent. on the existing duties had to be levied. This measure has improved revenue, and placed the finances of the Island in a healthy state.

Public Debt.

The balance due under this head on the 31st December 1867 was only 907*l.* 10*s.*

Legislation.

The following Acts were passed during the year 1867, viz.:—

An Act to abolish excise duties, and to impose an additional tax on sellers of liquors. By this change a real gain of 200*l.* has been realised.

The excise tax was open to fraud, which was committed to a large extent by distillers. Any reform in a measure of this kind must be hailed as an era of progress in Nevis, after smuggling for so many years had detracted from the public revenue to such an amount that its normal condition was known only as one of continued bankruptcy.

The Act to abolish parish rates was reported in the last Blue Book.

The Incumbent Estates Acts have been entertained by the Legislature, and are now the law of the land.

Also an Act to grant a pension to the late Chief Justice, who retired from bodily infirmity. This measure requires no comment.

An Act to establish a police force. This merely perpetuates a previous enactment.

An Appropriation Act, devoting 7,591*l.* to the public service.

An Act to raise by loan 1,200*l.* for the public service, to pay a debt which had become overdue.

An Act for the protecting the growth of cotton from robbery and illicit dealing. A measure solicited by cotton growers, and will no doubt be productive of good effect.

An Act to regulate the Coroner's office, founded on the Imperial system.

An Act subsidising the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, recommended by Her Majesty's Government.

An Act to raise by loan 1,000*l.* to the public service.

Political Franchise.

There has been no change in this respect.

Council and Assembly.

In 1867 a single Legislative Chamber, composed of the Lieutenant Governor as President, the Colonial Secretary and Solicitor General ex-officio members, three nominee members and five elected members, was framed, in lieu of the former Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

Pensions.

This head of public expenditure has been increased by the annual allowance of 100*l.* to the late Chief Justice.

Agriculture.

Under this head it is satisfactory to state that a steady improvement goes on. Cultivation has been largely extended, and a large amount of agricultural machinery has been introduced into the Island; drainage has also been much improved.

The sugar crop of 1867 was, however, owing to severe drought, singularly short, viz., one third below the usual average.

Cotton.

Cotton, which during the American war was largely grown and exported, is now thrown out of cultivation, as being unremunerative. Sugar exported 2,006 hogsheads.

Prisons.

This establishment has engaged much attention. There has been an increase of prisoners convicted for petty offences, induced, in all probability, by the short crop, low wages, and lack of general improvement.

There is one charitable institution supported at the public charge. This institution works well at a moderate cost it affords shelter to 36 aged poor and infirm.

Medical aid is supplied as circumstances require; there are rooms also set apart for sick seamen, who receive attention gratuitously.

There is a library in Charlestown, which is only in its infancy at present, and requires the fostering care of the public to give it health.

In conclusion, it gives me pleasure to remark that Nevis is improving in its agricultural, mercantile, and financial affairs, and, under proper supervision, is capable of being made a charming and delightful little Island.

The change in her political constitution has already been fruitful of much good, and if the nearer union between her and the sister Island of Saint Kitts be consummated, it is to be expected that a future of prosperity, progress, and happiness may be safely calculated on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. MACKENZIE,
Lieutenant Governor.

His Excellency Colonel Stephen J. Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 218.)

MY LORD DUKE, Leeward Islands, Antigua, November 20, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1867, together with a report thereon by the Acting President.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor-in-Chief, Leeward Islands.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 99.)

SIR, Tortola, November 6, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1867, together with my report thereon.

I very much regret that I have been unable to forward these returns before this time; but the delay has been caused by the destruction of the books of the sub-treasurer at West End in the hurricane; the destruction of some, and mutilation of others, of the books of the prison, and the general disarrangement of all the offices, caused by the hurricane; added to which is the paucity of men, either official or otherwise, of ability to collect and arrange the information required. And my own time being so fully occupied with the relief money and accounts, the restoration of public buildings, &c., I have been unable until very recently to afford my services in the compilation of the Blue Book. I trust that His Grace the Secretary of State will be pleased to accept this my apology for the delay.

REPORT on the VIRGIN ISLANDS BLUE BOOK for the YEAR 1867.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of 1867 exceeded that of 1866 (including balances from the previous years) by 285*l.* 8*s.* 6¼*d.* This increase appears to have been occasioned chiefly by the increase in 1867 of the Import duty on flour and cornmeal of 2*s.* per barrel, and increase of Export duty on cattle, and by incidental receipts from auction sales of wrecked goods.

The increase would have been greater, but in the early months of the year the prevalence of cholera at St. Thomas materially impeded the trade with that island.

The expenditure in 1867 was in excess of that of 1866, as shown at pages 32 and 33, by 285*l.* 8*s.* 6¼*d.*, while there was on 31st December a debt still due by the Colony of 189*l.* 4*s.* 8½*d.*; together, 474*l.* 13*s.* 2¾*d.* This was attributed to the increase of prisoners, and the strict quarantine which was rendered necessary to be maintained against St. Thomas for cholera, and the few sporadic cases of smallpox which occurred in this island, also the increase of relief to the poor.

Public Debt.

2. The public debt, as stated at page 44, was purely for the service of 1867, and is included under the head of expenditure in paragraph 1 of this Report.

Militia.

3. The militia cannot be called efficient. The artillery corps is selected from the most respectable of the townspeople, and the infantry from the country labourers, who are generally excessively dull of comprehension; and the training of them is, consequently,

a very difficult task. The expense incurred was 34*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.* for clothing, pay of the armourer, drummer and fifer.

Public Works.

4. The only public work in 1867 was the repair of the pier, just previously to the disastrous hurricane of 29th October, which it was fortunate had been completed, and so prevented the entire destruction of this most useful landing place. The sum expended upon it was 49*l.* 19*s.* 4¾*d.* The hurricane, nevertheless, seriously damaged it, but it has since been properly repaired.

Legislation.

5. There were five ordinances which became law during the year. The chief of these was the "Constitution Ordinance." This ordinance abolished the elective franchise, and thus put an end to electioneering feuds, and the return by irresponsible persons of members entirely ignorant of their duties as legislators alike to their constituents and to the Government, and who were consequently entirely biassed in their work by private feelings. The present system of three official members, the president administering the government being the chief, and having a casting as well as a deliberative vote, and three unofficial members nominated by the Crown, has worked remarkably well. There are no boisterous meetings such as characterized the former legislative assemblies.

The Jury Ordinance reduces the number of jurors to six in criminal cases, and abolishes juries in civil cases in toto. These provisions have since been altered, and either plaintiff or defendant may now require a jury; if they do not, before or at the trial of the cause, the judge decides alone; and in all cases the jury is to consist of seven.

Certain qualifications are necessary for jurymen. A jury list is prepared by the Provost Marshal, and submitted to the chief judge, who selects therefrom 18 names. The persons so chosen are then summoned to attend the court, and are bound under penalties to perform the duties of jurymen. On the whole, this system appears well adapted to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

The Steam Navigation Company's Ordinance exempts all vessels of any steam navigation company from payment of any tonnage or other dues, saving import duty on articles not for the use of such companies. This ordinance, from the geographical position of these islands, it was hoped, would induce the establishment in them of a depôt for steamers coaling and obtaining supplies.

The Supplementary Import and Export Duty Ordinance increased the duty on flour from 3*s.* to 5*s.*, on cornmeal from 2*s.* to 4*s.*, and on the exportation of horned cattle from 2*s.* to 4*s.*

Population.

6. The population of these islands, by the returns of the registrars, appears to be increasing. Upwards of 30 per cent. of the 170 deaths recorded were either during the hurricane, or soon after, caused by wounds received during and exposure to its virulence.

Ecclesiastical.

7. The parish church in Road Town, and the three chapels in connection with the church, were destroyed by the hurricane, as were also four out of the seven Wesleyan chapels.

Education.

8. The number of children taught in the several schools during the year is greater by 132 than in 1866, notwithstanding that the schools were not re-organized after the hurricane until this year.

The grant of 80*l.* per annum for educational purposes is divided by the Commissioners of Education among the several schools, according to the average daily attendance of children between five years and twelve years of age. No school which does not average 20 children daily is admitted to participate in the grant.

Imports and Exports.

9. The imports of 1867 are in excess of those of 1866 by 1,088*l.* To the vigilance of the sub-treasurers in the out islands are we indebted for a more correct return of imports. The exports have decreased by 1,621*l.*

The almost entire cessation of trade with St. Thomas during the early part of the year, owing to the existence of cholera in that island, and the neglect of the cultivation

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of cotton, will in a great measure account for the diminution of exports. In 1866, 45,900 lb. of cotton, value 1,545*l.*, were exported ; and in 1867, 22,975 lb., value 378*l.*

Gaols and Prisoners.

10. The loss of some of the books of the prison, and mutilation of others by the hurricane, caused great difficulty in making up any return of the number of prisoners. They have, however, been prepared as accurately as circumstances would allow.

There were 37 more prisoners in 1867 than in 1866, who, with the exception of one for rape, and two for sheepstealing, were principally for petty thefts.

11. It has been impossible to maintain proper discipline in the temporary prison since the hurricane. In the first instance a small room of nine feet square was the only place which would be found to secure the prisoners. The consequence was that those for minor offences had to be released to make room for those of graver ones ; and, fortunately, at that time, there were no female prisoners.

The ground walls of the gaol not having been blown or shaken down, and the upper floor left on the walls, a rough roof was put on with steps to lead into the roof, which was divided in two apartments, one for the turnkey, the other for the matron ; and the lower part formed two wards, one for males, the other for females, the gaoler occupying the bathing room in the prison yard which had been repaired for his use.

The plan on which the prison is now being built will allow of better classification than has ever been effected here, as also for isolation, which will in all probability have a deterrent effect on the commission of crime.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. H. A. PORTER,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.
&c. &c. &c.
Antigua.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Hon. EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 3.)

MY LORD, Leeward Islands, Antigua, January 20, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Despatch from the Officer administering the Government of Dominica, forwarding the Blue Book of that Colony for 1867, together with his Report thereon.

The Despatch referred to by Mr. Bulwer was forwarded to your Lordship's Department in my Despatch No. 80 of the 24th October last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.
Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 161.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, December 29, 1868.

I HAVE already (Despatch No. 132, of 24th October) acquainted your Excellency with the circumstances, namely, the illness and death of the late Colonial Secretary, which have caused a delay in the compilation of the Blue Book Returns of this Colony for 1867.

I have now the honour to forward these returns, together with my report thereon. DOMINICA.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. BULWER.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.
&c. &c. &c.
Antigua.

REPORT on the Blue Book Returns of Dominica for the Year 1867.

Taxes and Duties.

An Act, styled the "General Tax Act, 1867," to raise a fund in aid of the revenue of the island, was passed at the commencement of the year. It repealed the "General Tax Act of 1857," and the "Tax Act of 1865," together with the amending or altering Acts supplementary to these, and substituted in lieu thereof certain other provisions.

The principal changes effected were these:—The export duty on cocoa was increased from 6*d.* to 1*s.* for every 100 lbs.; the export duties on arrowroot, limejuice, charcoal, and hides were abolished, and a new duty of 4*s.* imposed upon every head of cattle exported. An annual tax of 20*l.* was imposed upon bankers, and of 1*l.* upon butchers. The tax payable by barristers or attorneys-at-law was reduced from 10*l.* to 6*l.*, that payable by medical practitioners from 8*l.* to 6*l.*, and that by druggists from 6*l.* to 5*l.*

The remaining taxes or duties payable under the repealed Acts were mostly continued at the same rates.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross revenue of the year was 14,168*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; the gross expenditure 13,782*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* These amounts include, on the side of revenue, a balance from 1866 of 794*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*; and on the side of expenditure, the contingent claims outstanding against the Colony on the 31st of December 1866, incurred in and due in respect of that year, but paid in 1867. The net revenue of 1867 was 13,369*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, against 14,321*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* in 1866 (exclusive of the loan of that year), and against 13,271*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* in 1865. The net revenue, therefore, of 1867, shows a slight increase upon the revenue of 1865, but a decrease of 952*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* as compared with that of 1866; the decrease being chiefly in the receipts from import dues, from export dues, and from the house tax. With respect to the decrease in the receipts from the house tax,—a decrease of 307*l.* 18*s.*,—this is due to the repeal of the tax on houses on estates.

As I observed when writing at the commencement of the year upon the accounts of 1867 (Despatch No. 20, February 1868), the feature to be noticed in the revenue of the Colony is the amount derived from the Customs Import Duties, and that derived from the Excise Duty on rum; the two together not realizing 7,000*l.* in a population of 27,000.

As I remarked at the time with respect to this, something may be due to evasions of the revenue laws, the facilities for which are not wanting, something to high duties imposed upon imports, and something, perhaps, to the nature of *ad valorem* duties placed on articles difficult to assess fairly; but, on the whole, the receipt must be taken as the test of the power of consumption of the population, and of its condition.

Public Debt.

The public debt of this Colony consists of two liabilities, which are as follows:—

1. The amount due to the Imperial Government on account of the Hurricane Loan of 1836.
2. The amount due to the Colonial Bank and others on account of the loan of 1866 raised for the service of the island.

The former was a loan of 10,000*l.*; the latter one of 4,100*l.* In order to understand the position of the Colony, and the amount now due by it in respect of the first of the above-named liabilities, where it is a debtor to the Imperial Government on account of the Hurricane Loan of 1836, it is necessary to refer to the transactions that have passed in connection with this debt.

The loan (10,000*l.*) was advanced to the Colony in March 1836, and was to be repaid in ten years from the date of the advance, with interest after the rate of 4 per centum. This arrangement, however, was never carried out; but towards the reduction of the

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loan there was eventually repaid, by the year 1860, the principal sum of 4,595*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, leaving unpaid the residue of the principal, together with considerable arrears of interest.

The Act of 23 & 24 Vict. cap. 57. authorized the reduction of the rate of interest from 4 per centum to 3¼ per centum, as also the capitalization of the arrears of interest due, which, together with the residue of the principal, was put by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury at 8,083*l.* in that year (1860); and the whole was to be paid off by twenty annual instalments of 555*l.* 15*s.* Five such instalments were paid up to the 31st March 1865, when the last payment was made. The financial condition of the Colony then becoming embarrassed, the Imperial Government again gave a favourable consideration to the position of the local Government; and an Act was passed (30 & 31 Vict. cap. 91.) in the course of the year (1867) of which this Report treats, authorizing the postponement of the further payment of the instalments until the 31st March 1870, when an increased annuity is to be substituted for the former annuity; the payment of the said increased annuity to commence on that date, and to be made in the ten subsequent years.

The debt due to the Imperial Government, therefore, may be placed at 8,336*l.* 15*s.*, which includes the interest computed to the 31st March 1880, when the last instalment is due.

The other liability of the Colony is that to the Colonial Bank and others, the original amount of which was 4,100*l.*

Besides the payment of the interest due upon this sum (at the rate of 8 and 9 per centum), there was repaid, of the principal, 1,000*l.* in 1866, and 1,250*l.* in 1867, leaving on the 31st December in the latter year a residue of 1,850*l.* due by the Colony.

Public Works.

In these, some of the most pressing and necessary repairs only were effected.

A portion of the sea wall which had been for some time in a dilapidated condition was restored, at a cost of 170*l.*

In a severe gale that was experienced in October a heavy sea carried away a part of the foundation of the public jetty. The means of the Colony, unfortunately, have not admitted of its immediate restoration. The expenditure on public buildings and works during the year 1867 was 493*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

Upon the maintenance and repair of the public roads and bridges of the Island 812*l.* were expended, besides the amount paid for the salaries of the inspector of roads, the road-wardens, and the clerk to the Road Commissioners, and for other miscellaneous charges; the total expenditure under the head of roads and bridges being 1,153*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* The sum of 812*l.*, above-given as the actual sum expended on the repair and maintenance, does not, however, represent the full measure of what is contributed by the Colony to these purposes, manual labour and personal service having been, in addition, bestowed upon the roads.

The maintenance and repair of the public roads and bridges are the subject of a separate and special provision, under which all persons, except ministers of religion, between the ages of 16 and 50, are liable to contribute labour for so many days in the year, on the public roads, or, in lieu thereof, to pay a certain money commutation.

Some elect to labour, some to pay the money commutation; and the Commissioners of Roads thus have both means at their disposal, subject to certain restrictions. The amount of road money received during the year was 1,241*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

This is a special fund, and cannot be diverted to other services; but the item is included in the gross amount of the revenue of the Colony I have elsewhere given.

Legislation.

Six laws passed and came into operation in the course of the year. Of these, three deserve notice:—

The first, an Act to enable excise officers to act as revenue officers for the better protection of the revenue; the second, an Act for carrying into execution in Dominica "The West Indian Incumbered Estates Acts 1854, 1858, 1862, and 1864;" the third, the "General Tax Act, 1867," to which I have already referred at the commencement of this Report. Of the remaining three, two were Acts granting patent rights to inventions for improvements in the manufacture of sugar and rum; the third was to supply a slight verbal omission in the "Rum Duty Act" of 1866.

I may here observe, however, that, besides the six Acts above-named, five other measures of some importance were passed by the Legislative Assembly at the latter end of the year; but as they were not assented to, and consequently did not come into

operation until the commencement of 1868, they will be placed among the legislative enactments of that year, and not of 1867.

Population.

The census of 1860 returned the population of Dominica at 25,065.

The Registrar General of the Colony places it at 26,599 at the end of the year 1867, showing an increase of 1,534 in the seven years. During the year 740 births were registered against 539 deaths, an increase within the year of 201. A comparison of the Registrar General's returns for 1867 with those for the preceding year, 1866, shows 740 births in 1867, against 721 in 1866; 539 deaths in 1867, against 519 in 1866; 125 marriages in 1867, against 225 in 1866.

Ecclesiastical.

The population of the Island as above shown is estimated at 26,599.

Their denominational proportions, given in round numbers, are as follows:—

Roman Catholic - - -	23,000
Wesleyan - - - -	2,000
Church of England - - -	1,000

The establishment of the Roman Catholic Church consists of a bishop, a vicar-general, and 10 priests.

The Wesleyan Mission has two resident missionaries in the Island.

There is one minister of the Church of England, the rector of St. George.

The number of ministers of religion, I presume, may be considered as being in sufficient proportion to the number of the population, regarding the subject from a numerical point of view. It is to be observed, however, that the charge (taking the average) of each of the 10 ministers of the Roman Catholic Church is more than double, in point of numbers, that of any of the ministers of the other denominations. It is also to be observed that the population of the Island is a scattered population; while the mountainous character of the country, and the want of carriage roads and carriage conveyance, renders communication difficult and tedious. Therefore, the aggregate of the numbers of the population does not convey any satisfactory indication of what is sufficient or insufficient for their requirements in this respect; and there are necessarily many parts very inadequately provided with religious ministration.

The Roman Catholic clergy are supported by voluntary contributions. The Wesleyan Mission is maintained by the Wesleyan Missionary Society. The establishment of the Church of England alone is provided for by the Colony. The present provision dates from the year 1830; but provision had previously been made and from time to time continued from the year 1798. The annual charge upon the general revenue on account of the establishment is 376*l.*, the rector's stipend being 320*l.*

Education.

There was an increase in the number of scholars on the books of the public or Government schools during the year 1867, of 141; the returns for that year showing 587 scholars, against 446 in the previous year. This increase is due to the establishment of a school at Laroche, in the parish of St. Patrick, which brought together 139 children before the close of the year.

The Government Board of Education continued during the year a grant of 40*l.* in aid to the Roman Catholic boys' school in Roseau, which numbered 133 boys, being 38 less than in 1866.

The Board gave assistance also to a private school of 32 pupils in Roseau.

Thus the number of scholars in the schools belonging to the Government, or assisted by it, was as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government schools - -	432	155	587
Schools assisted by Government -	133	32	165

Making in all a total of 752 scholars.

The expenditure by the Government during the year on education, including the salary and expenses of the inspector of schools, was 685*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

Besides the schools above referred to, which were either Government schools or schools assisted by the Government, there were private and denominational schools supported and conducted by the different religious establishments in the Island.

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Being independent of pecuniary assistance from the Educational Board they were also independent of the control or inspection of the board.

The returns which the various denominational ministers have been good enough to furnish show the number of schools and scholars as follows :—

Roman Catholic schools, besides the school for boys already mentioned as assisted by the board:

In Roseau, a school for girls, numbering	182
Idem, a boarding school for girls, numbering	25
Idem, a female orphanage, numbering	60
At Pointe Michelle, a school for girls, nnmbering	102
At Souffriere, a school for girls, numbering	52
Total	421

Church of England schools:

In Roseau, boys' school, numbering	62
Idem, girls' school, numbering	60
Total boys and girls	122

Wesleyan schools, besides Sunday schools:

At Layou, a school for boys and girls (45 boys, 24 girls)	69
At Lasoye, a school for boys and girls (36 boys, 17 girls)	53
Total boys and girls	122

The summary of education, then, in the Island, for the year 1867, may be thus set forth :—

Number of children receiving eduation in Government schools and in schools assisted by the Government	772
Ascertained number of children receiving education in other schools	665

Making a total of 1,417 children receiving education out of a population of between 26,000 and 27,000.

This is scarcely a sufficient proportion.

Referring more particularly to the share taken by the Government in education, the grant for 1867 was 700*l.*, of which, as shown above, 685*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* was actually expended. The education of 752 children is not an adequate result for the amount of expenditure, and many parishes and localities were unprovided with the means of education.

There are, however, local circumstances to be taken into consideration which render the diffusion of educational means always a matter of some difficulty. I refer to the scattered condition of this population of 26,000 or 27,000 over a mountainous country, the nature of which creates distances and difficulties of communication; to the early age in which children are employed in agricultural pursuits; and to the very frequent indifference on the part of the parents.

Nevertheless, there were many improvements of which the system was susceptible; and the Educational Act expiring on the 31st December 1867 a new Act was passed, coming into operation in 1868, under which the extension of educational means has been very considerably promoted throughout the country. These results, however, belong to the Report for 1868.

Imports and Exports.

The total declared value of the imports into the Colony during 1867 was 51,047*l.* 8*s.*; this is against 43,558*l.* in 1864, 52,374*l.* in 1865, 61,188*l.* in 1866. From the United Kingdom (*direct*), the value of imports was 16,701*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*; from the British Colonies, 28,289*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*; from foreign countries, 6,056*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* But nearly the whole, or 26,021*l.*, of the imports from the British Colonies was from Barbados, and was of British goods. Of other Colonies, 1,475*l.* was from Nova Scotia, the imports being lumber and shingles.

The greater part of the imports from foreign countries was from the French West Indies, and consisted of butter, candles, dried fish, furniture, indigo, leeches, linens and cottons, olive oil, potatoes, gin, refined sugar, and wines.

The principal articles of which there was a decrease in the imported quantities in

the general importation, as compared with 1866, are flour, glass, haberdashery hardware, leather, tea, and tobacco.

The total declared value of exports from the Colony in 1867 was 95,579*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, against 106,452*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year.

The decrease was in the quantity of sugar, the value of the sugar exported being less by 13,362*l.* than in 1866. There was also a decrease in the exports of animals and arrowroot.

On the other hand, there was an increase in the exports of cocoa, coffee, molasses, rum, and wood.

I noticed in my Report of last year that attention had been of late given to the cultivation of cocoa. There had been a slight increase in 1866 in the export of this article upon that of 1865; and the export of 1867 shows an increase of 34,978 lbs. upon that of 1866. The total export of cocoa during the two years was as follows:—

	Lbs.
1866 - - -	154,266
1867 - - -	189,244

In the export of coffee also the increase is noticeable. The quantity exported in 1867 has more than doubled that in 1866, the respective figures being as follows:—

	Lbs.
1866 - - -	9,888
1867 - - -	23,913

I should not be justified, however, in holding this increase out as an indication of any particular impetus or attention having been given to the cultivation of this article.

The cultivation of cocoa is comparatively of recent date, but coffee was the original staple produce of the Island.

I have reason to believe, from what I have since learned, that the quantity of coffee exported from this Island in former years considerably exceeded the amount stated in my Report of last year, namely 2,000,000 lbs., and that it may be more correctly represented at between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 lbs.

The difference between these figures and those of 1866 and 1867 show to how trifling an extent the cultivation is continued; and, indeed, since the blight of 1831, almost every attempt to revive the cultivation has failed. As much of it, however, as is still produced is of a very fine quality, some portion being of the Mocha plant, which was successfully introduced many years ago. It is to be noticed that nearly the entire quantity exported, that is 22,290 lbs. out of 23,913 lbs., is taken to the neighbouring French islands.

Of the total, 95,579*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, value of exports in the year, 86,335*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* were to the United Kingdom; 4,706*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* to British Colonies, mostly to Barbados; and 4,538*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* to foreign countries, mostly to the French and Danish West Indies.

Shipping.

The shipping returns for the past three years show the number of vessels and amount of tonnage entered and cleared, as follows:—

Entered.

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
In 1865 - - -	241	7,965
In 1866 - - -	193	7,493
In 1867 - - -	325	7,778

Cleared.

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
In 1865 - - -	237	8,211
In 1866 - - -	187	6,630
In 1867 - - -	299	7,785

Of the total tonnage entered in 1867, 1,409 was from Great Britain; 3,569 from British West Indies; 1,254 from French West Indies. Of the total tonnage cleared in 1867, 2,754 was for Great Britain; 2,656 for British West Indies; 936 for French West Indies.

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Gaols and Prisoners.

There is but one gaol in the Island, that in Roseau. It is capable of containing in separate cells 21 prisoners, or, including the debtors' and untried prisoners' cells, 25 prisoners; but where more than one prisoner sleeps in a cell it is capable of containing 85 or 90 prisoners.

The greatest number of prisoners in confinement at any one time in the year was 40.

The total number of prisoners committed in 1867 was 299, being less by 46 than in the previous year. There were 19 cases of sickness and one death in the course of the year.

Of the 299 prisoners committed, 169 were males and 130 females; 245 could not read; 21 were prisoners for debt, and 117 for road default. Road defaulters are those who have refused or neglected to comply with the obligations of the law, which requires annually a certain personal labour, or, in lieu thereof, a certain money commutation payment, towards the repairs and maintenance of the public roads and highways.

Attention has been of late directed to the large number of these defaulters, the number imprisoned by no means representing the total number of defaulters; and a Bill is now before the Legislative Assembly by which it is hoped to provide a more efficient prevention of such default, and so at the same time to reduce the large number annually imprisoned for it.

Deducting the number of debtors and the number of road defaulters from the total number of prisoners committed, there were, therefore, 161 prisoners committed in 1867 for criminal offences.

Charitable Institutions.

Relief of the Poor.

The system is one of in-door relief, but out-door relief is also given in certain exceptional cases. The poor-house is under the direction of a board of guardians, and under the immediate superintendence and charge of a resident master and matron.

A medical attendant is attached to the establishment.

The returns for the year are as follows:—

Number of inmates remaining on 31st December 1866		95
Admitted in 1867		120
Total number of inmates in 1867		215
Died in 1867	25	
Discharged in 1867	86	
		111
Remaining on 31st December 1867		104

The number of persons to whom out-door relief was given during the year was at the average rate of 28 persons weekly.

Lunatics.

A lunatic asylum is connected with the poor-house establishment, being under the same direction and superintendence. There is also a resident keeper.

There were two lunatics in the asylum at the close of 1866, and one was admitted during the year, leaving three remaining on the 31st December 1867.

The total cost of the poor-house establishment and lunatic asylum in 1867 was 1,507*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Deducting the amount of the fixed salaries paid to the medical attendant, the master and matron, and the keeper of the lunatic asylum, namely 290*l.*, the contingent expenses of the establishment and asylum were 1,217*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Infirmary.

The Roseau infirmary is under private management. It is, however, principally supported by the Colony, which supplies the medical attendance, together with an annual grant of 160*l.* in addition.

Without this assistance, indeed, it could scarcely be kept up, for it appears that its total income in 1867 was only 224*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, of which, as has been shown, 160*l.* is contributed by the Colony. Its expenditure, including arrears from 1866, was 251*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.*

The returns furnished by the trustee, who is the rector of the English church in the Island, show the number of patients admitted and treated during the year, as follows:—

Number of patients remaining from 1866		25
Admitted during 1867		137
Total admitted and treated during 1867		162
Died	27	
Discharged	116	
		143
Remaining on 31st December 1867		19

Orphanage.

The Female Orphan Asylum attached to the Roman Catholic convent, and supported by the Bishop of Roseau, I noticed in my Report of last year, together with its management, and the beneficial results it was calculated to produce.

The number of inmates in 1867 is given at 66.

A grant of 125*l.* to the institution was made by the Colony in the course of the year.

I have, &c.

Government House, Dominica, 29th December 1868.

(Signed) H. E. BULWER.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1867.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1869.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1869.

24572.

SCHEDULE.

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NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

No. 1.

(No Report received.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Administrator of the Government to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 2.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, January 9, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867.

2. Having only entered upon the duties of the administration of the Government on the 22d of October last, the experience of so brief a period does not justify me in venturing to offer any observations to your Grace on its contents.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) R. HODGSON, Administrator.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor A. MUSGRAVE to the Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 2.)

MY LORD, Government House, Newfoundland, January 7, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward in duplicate the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867. As its transmission has already been much delayed, I will not detain it longer for the purpose of attempting any detailed comment, especially as the circumstances of the Colony during the period to which it refers presented no peculiar feature, and I could add little if anything to the observations made on previous occasions.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

BERMUDA.

No. 4.

BERMUDA.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Major-General Sir F. CHAPMAN, K.C.B., R.E., to the SECRETARY OF STATE for the COLONIES.

(No. 27.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Bermuda, April 10, 1868.

IN forwarding the Blue Book for Bermuda for the year 1867 I have the honour to furnish the following observations:—

1. *Taxes.*

No alterations have taken place from those authorized in 1866.

2. *Revenue.*

There is a decrease of 2,099*l.* in the revenue of 1867 compared with that of the previous year, but this is to be accounted for by an unusually large quantity of rum and other spirits having been entered for duty in the early part of 1866, in anticipation of the duty being raised 50 per cent. on the former, and 20 per cent. on the latter.

3. *Expenditure.*

The expenditure is within the revenue. It is less than last year's, and as the salaries of some of the principal public officers of the Colony have been for the first time defrayed from local sources, and the causeway works have formed a new charge, it bears a favourable comparison with the revenue.

4. *Public works and buildings.*

A very important work has been commenced, connecting St. George's, viâ Long Bird Island, and by a causeway through Castle Harbour, with the main islands westward. This work when completed cannot fail in providing a good and safe communication for the military, and a good road for the ordinary traffic of the Colony.

The Military Telegraph has also been established throughout the Islands from St. George's, viâ Hamilton and Gibbs Hill, to Her Majesty's Dockyard in Ireland Island, and proves to be a great convenience to all classes. A branch from the main line to Mount Langton places the Governor in immediate communication with the other stations.

The public highways and colonial buildings have been maintained in fair order, but a larger amount will be required for their repair in the forthcoming year than was voted for 1867.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CHAPMAN.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SEYMOUR to the Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 24.)

MY LORD, Victoria, March 2, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867, together with a Report from the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. The United Colony is of such vast extent and presents so many peculiar features that I feel I had better postpone to another opportunity a general consideration of its resources and position.

3. From the copy of the addresses interchanged between the Council and myself at the commencement of the present legislative session, which I beg leave to lay before your Lordship, you will see that there is but little fear for the future existing among the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, November 20, 1868.

Separate.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Colony of British Columbia for the year 1867.

2. I regret the delay which has taken place in compiling this book, but it is the first Blue Book prepared since the union of the two formerly separate Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and the difficulties and delays inseparable

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

from obtaining returns and information in a new and sparsely peopled country have in this case been more than ordinarily experienced, and the compilation of the book correspondingly retarded.

3. For the same reason, viz., that this Blue Book is virtually the first of a new Colony, it is not possible with any degree of accuracy to deduce therefrom any just general comparisons with previous years.

4. It is true that the elements of the now united Colony were in existence before, but it must be remembered that those elements were subject to different laws, to different financial systems, to a different form of government, and to a policy affecting them in a manner wholly distinct from their existing condition when united into one accordant whole.

5. There is, however, one point of comparison which can be more justly made now than hereafter, as immediately showing whether union has operated beneficially or otherwise in reducing the cost of the government of the country.

6. This can only be done by going back to the statistics of the year 1865—the year immediately preceding union.

7. No just comparison can be adduced by taking the figures of 1866, for the reason, first, that union was accomplished during that year, and therefore only part of a year could be dealt with; and secondly, that union being confidently anticipated to take place during that year, the circumstances of neither Colony were strictly such as they were in 1865, when union itself even being problematical, each Colony made its own arrangements and carried on its own government independently and entirely without reference to a change, the period of which it was impossible to fix.

8. In the year 1865, it will be found that the sum of 24,308*l.* was expended for the civil establishments of Vancouver Island, and 37,165*l.* for the maintenance of those of British Columbia, making a total of 61,473*l.*

9. In 1867, for the same service for the united Colony the cost is 30,300*l.*

10. Thus it will be seen that in the cost of the government of the United Colony of British Columbia, in 1867, an absolute reduction has taken place of 31,173*l.*, or in other words the country was, in 1867, governed not only at a saving of the whole cost of the civil establishments of Vancouver Island in 1865, but in addition at a saving of nearly 7,000*l.* on the civil establishments of British Columbia during that year as a separate Colony.

11. These are results which I believe are but little known, and certainly seem to be little appreciated.

12. It is true that there is less population now in the country than in 1865, but the difference when fairly considered will be found but little to affect this question.

The extent of territory is the same. The people are scattered over its length and breadth now as then. Individual groups may be smaller, but the same or very nearly the same necessities exist for the preservation of life and property and for the maintenance of peace and order. Wherever reduction on account of decrease of population could be made with safety, it has been carried out, but after all it has only amounted to the saving of the salaries of two magistrates and a few constables. One breach of the peace resulting from inadequate provision for its maintenance might cost the Colony more than the pittance saved. For instance, during 1867 an emeute at Cariboo resulted in an outlay, to restore order, of over 1,700*l.* Had the force of constables at the magistrate's disposal been larger, the whole affair would in all probability never have occurred.

13. The reduction in the cost of the civil establishments of the country may therefore principally be attributed to amalgamation of offices and duties, brought about by arrangements arising out of union.

14. The estimated white population of the Colony in 1867 is 10,000. In 1865 the united white population of the two Colonies was estimated at 12,000.

15. There is another question of interest which naturally arises from a consideration of the altered circumstances of the territory. If the public burden has been so much lightened by the decrease in the cost of government has any change taken place in the rate of taxation?

16. This question of taxation is necessarily a most difficult one to determine. So many extraneous circumstances, so many varying incidents are mixed up with it, that, at the best, any result arrived at must be taken as more or less inconclusive. However, I trust, I shall at least be able to show that there is substantial ground for asserting that union has resulted in a considerable decrease of the individual contributions of the people, although opinion may possibly differ as to the actual amount of that decrease.

17. In the two Colonies, in 1865, there was raised by actual taxation, in round numbers—

	£	£
In Vancouver Island - - - -	33,052	
In British Columbia - - -	108,380	
making a total of - - - - -		141,432
In 1867, in the United Colony, the sum of - - -		86,602
or a reduction on 1865 of - - - - -		54,830

18. The diminution of population creating a falling off in the revenue does not account for the difference. The consumption may be taken to be proportionately the same.

The country was not more impoverished in 1867 than in 1865. In short the extraneous circumstances affecting this question may fairly be treated as alike in both years. Therefore it follows that in the year 1867 the public burdens were lighter than in 1865.

19. For instance, taking the number of the white population simply as a standard and as a matter of comparison, it will be found that in 1865 the taxes raised give 12*l.* per head of the white population. In 1867, 8*l.* 10*s.* Other things then being equal, here is an absolute reduction of taxation in 1867, after union, of 3*l.* 10*s.* per head over 1865, before union,—more than one fourth.

20. And this, I believe, is the conclusion as nearly approaching the truth as it is possible to approach it in a question of this character. The average rate of taxation per head during 1867, since union, was less by more than one fourth of its amount antecedent to union.

21. I have taken the white population simply as a standard of comparison, and it must not be assumed for one moment that the whole revenue is contributed by them, or that in 1865 they paid, per head, 12*l.*, or in 1867, 8*l.* 10*s.*, by way of taxation. What the exact proportion may be it is impossible to determine: It may not be very much more than one-half of this sum. It must be remembered that the native besides the white population are large consumers of dutiable goods, and also that there is not a small consumption of dutiable goods by transient visitors from the neighbouring American territory, and by the crews of ships calling at the ports of the Colony.

In 1867, too, the contribution to the revenue by the native population must very largely exceed that of 1865. In 1867 the whole native population of Vancouver Island are included in the consumption to a far greater extent than in 1865, for in that year the revenue being raised by direct taxation, and no customs duties being levied in Vancouver Island, the native population in their staple articles of consumption to a considerable degree escaped taxation. Now under the altered financial system the native of Vancouver Island contributes to the revenue equally with the white man in proportion to his consumption.

22. In viewing this question of taxation it must also be borne in mind that so far as the white population of the Colony is concerned it is principally an adult population. The number of children bears no proportion to the average of an older community.

23. And there is still this further to be explained. The amount of revenue contributed by the people to the general government, as herein quoted, is almost the entire amount of the public burden. With two exceptions only, there are throughout the entire Colony no municipal governments levying and collecting local taxes, and in the case of these two exceptions the local revenue raised is so small as to be almost insignificant.

24. The yield of gold during the year is a matter not affected by union, for the mines of Vancouver Island have not as yet realized the expectations formed of them. The estimated export of gold from British Columbia during 1865 was 579,000*l.*, in 1866 600,000*l.*, and in 1867 700,000*l.* The actual export is probably much larger than this in each year, for it is impossible to ascertain what portion of the yield may be carried out of the Colony on the persons of individual miners. The data, however, from which the above figures are compiled is the same in each case, and therefore they may be taken as bearing a fair relative proportion to each other. Notwithstanding the population was less in 1867 than in 1865 and 1866, still the yield of gold was greater. The number of miners engaged was about the same as the preceding year, viz., 3,000. This gives the very large average earning per head of 233*l.*, a result, I believe, not to be equalled by any other mining country in the world.

25. I am not aware that there are any other really useful and interesting points to which, in forwarding this Blue Book, I can call your Excellency's attention. Next

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

year many other subjects will present themselves from which valuable statistics can be deduced.

26. In 1867 the Colony of British Columbia was certainly passing through a period of commercial depression. It was, however, not singular in that respect; local causes may have enhanced the depression, but it was by no means entirely attributable to them. Other countries besides British Columbia suffered during that year, and what affected one was not without its effect upon the other. But, notwithstanding, towards the close of the year trade in British Columbia was found to be upon a more secure and substantial basis than had ever before prevailed. A more legitimate business was done. There was less of speculation, and bad debts were reduced to almost a minimum. People had begun to discover that it was not alone from the produce of the gold mines that they should seek to extract a living. The general producing qualities of the country had consequently become more developed, more permanent settlement had taken place, and, in short, at the close of the year a more hopeful feeling pervaded all classes than had been experienced since 1863.

27. The elements of wealth are to be found within the Colony to an almost unprecedented degree. It rests with its people whether this wealth shall continue dormant, or shall bear fruit to the building up of a rich and flourishing country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM R. G. YOUNG,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Governor Seymour,
&c. &c. &c.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. E. KENNEDY, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 69.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Sierra Leone, June 19, 1868.

1. I have the honour to transmit the duplicate Blue Book of Sierra Leone for the year 1867.

2. As I did not administer the government for any portion of that year your Grace will not expect me on the present occasion to offer any detailed remarks.

Revenue.

3. The state of the revenue is satisfactory, notwithstanding wars and disturbances of some years standing in neighbouring territories, which have affected trade injuriously to a serious extent.

4. The revenue for 1867 amounted to 65,522*l.* 0*s.* 7¼*d.* against 62,263*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* in 1866.

Expenditure.

5. The estimated expenditure for 1867 was 53,058*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, while the actual expenditure reached 68,638*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* It must, however, be remarked that the cost of maintenance of the colonial steamer was not included in the estimate.

6. I transmit detailed returns showing the amount of revenue received at Sierra Leone for the years 1866 and 1867, and returns showing the difference between estimate and expenditure for the year 1867, with comparative statement of the same.

Debt.

7. The Colony may be stated to be free from debt.

Public Works.

8. The expenditure on works, finished and unfinished, amounted to 5,640*l.*, and a further serious outlay will be required to renew or repair public buildings, the majority of which are in a state of dilapidation.

Pensions.

9. Pensions have largely increased, and a further increase must be anticipated to remunerate past services in a climate such as this.

Education.

10. I refrain from offering any information beyond what the statistical tables supply, your Grace having recently sent an experienced school inspector from England, who has ere now reported to your Grace. There is great room and necessity for improvement, and an eager desire among all classes to avail themselves of a better and more uniform system of education.

General remarks.

11. The general condition of the Colony may be regarded as satisfactory.

12. The people are progressive, loyal, and contented. The neighbouring chiefs and their subjects have made great advances in civilization and intelligence. I observe remarkable changes in this respect since I administered this government fourteen years ago.

13. The Sherbro river and country was then little known or appreciated; when I (among the first white men) visited and examined it fifteen years ago, it was a stronghold of slave dealers and one of the principal marts on the coast. The sale of slaves is now unknown there.

14. At "Bendoo," the spot where I first landed, was a barbarous stockade, bristling with rusty guns, and garrisoned by a fierce and formidable horde of savages; on this spot now stands a decent church, where I lately heard the service performed with as much reverence and propriety as in any parish church in England.

15. A "Porrah bush," where pagan rites were performed and human sacrifices were offered up, adjoined the stockade. The "Porrah bush" has disappeared with the stockade, and in its stead I saw a flourishing crop of sugar cane growing.

16. Plain facts such as these express more forcibly than words the great blessing of British rule over this hitherto benighted country, and ought to satisfy the most sceptical that our expenditure of life and treasure has not been all in vain.

17. The people are only now awakening to know and feel the great boon which England has conferred upon them. Notwithstanding the sad neglect and delay in placing the means of education within the reach of the people, and the wrong direction often given to philanthropic efforts, they have advanced in a remarkable degree.

18. When I formerly administered this government there was, I believe, but one coloured minister of the Anglican church in the Colony; there are now eighteen ordained and educated native clergymen of the Church of England alone in this Colony, many of them the sons of liberated Africans, who by their example and teaching are rapidly leavening the whole mass. These gentlemen are mainly supported by the voluntary contributions of their congregation and the public.

19. Our settlement at "Bulama" at the mouth of the "Jeba" and "Bulola" rivers is admirably situated for the development of commerce and the spread of civilization.

20. The great want which strikes a common sense and impartial observer is that of a better class of men to carry out the beneficent views of Great Britain,—a want that can only be supplied by making this branch of the public service more honourable and more attractive.

21. Men of character and capacity will never be found to serve in this climate for the poor pittance which most of the public servants receive, with little chance of promotion and without hope of removal to a better climate. Such conditions are calculated to discourage and demoralize most men.

22. There is an ample field for the exercise and employment of the energies and talents of able men in Her Majesty's settlements on this coast, and all the failures and disasters which have occurred are traceable to the false economy of employing cheap officers.

23. The large and increasing commercial interests alone demand more care and ability than have hitherto been brought to bear upon them.

24. I was conveyed to this coast in 1852 in the first commercial or cargo steamer which ever visited it (the "Forerunner"). The same enterprising company now run two steamers monthly with mails, cargo, and passengers. They are so unequal to carry the increasing produce from the coast that a third steamer per month is about to be put on the line; and I entertain no doubt that but a short time will elapse before there are first-class weekly steamers from England.

25. The death of the old inveterate and influential slave-dealing chiefs, which cannot be far distant, will inaugurate a new era in industry and commerce.

26. These men, long inured to war, turbulence, and man-stealing, can never be expected to adapt themselves to the new circumstances which the abolition of the slave trade has brought forth.

27. The slave trade is undoubtedly at an end, and never can revive till a new market for them can be found.

28. When the remaining slave-dealing chiefs die out I apprehend a large portion of our naval force may be withdrawn for all purposes save the protection of trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor in Chief.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

Enclosures.

RETURN showing the difference between Estimate and Expenditure for the year 1867, with Comparative Statement of the same.

—	Estimate, 1867.	Expenditure, 1867.	No. of Reference.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Salaries fixed	32,148 17 3	29,355 6 4	1
Do. provisional and temporary	300 0 0	495 8 0	2
Allowances	547 10 0	623 15 0	3
Contingencies	1,145 0 0	781 19 9½	4
Pensions, retired allowances and gratuities	1,006 2 0	193 14 3	5
Revenue services, ex. Establishment	616 0 0	653 1 6	6
Admin. Justice, ex. Establishment	500 0 0	519 1 6	7
Ecclesiastical, ex. Establishment	600 0 0	722 14 8	8
Education, ex. Establishment	612 9 0	295 11 10	9
Hospitals, ex. Establishment	2,893 0 0	2,120 13 0½	10
Police and gaols, ex. Establishment	2,723 0 0	1,855 2 10¾	11
Charitable allowances	300 0 0	300 0 0	12
Rent	471 10 0	335 7 1	13
Transport	150 0 0	472 13 1	14
Conveyance of mails	100 0 0	84 0 0	15
Works and buildings	5,700 0 0	4,529 17 1	16
Roads, streets, and bridges	500 0 0	1,360 2 3½	17
Miscellaneous services	730 0 0	928 12 9	18
Advances	—	9,641 7 8½	19
Aborigines	2,015 0 0	694 4 3	20
Drawback and refund of duties	—	94 18 5½	21
Remittances	—	6,500 0 0	22
Repayment of Deposits	—	507 5 10½	23
Colonial steamer	—	5,173 11 3¾	24
Wilberforce testimonial	—	400 0 0	25
Total	53,058 8 3	68,638 8 10½	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Estimated and Actual Expenditure of the Colony for the year 1867.

No. 1. *Salaries, Fixed.*—Several of the officers being on leave of absence during the year, and only half pay being drawn by the acting officers, makes a difference between the amount estimated and that expended. No account has been furnished by the agents general showing what amount of pay has been issued to officers in England.

No. 2. *Salaries, Provisional and Temporary.*—This excess is occasioned by extra clerks being employed in the following departments,—Secretary's Office, Registrar General's Office, Printing Establishment, and Police Office.

No. 3. *Allowances.*—This increase is to be attributed to an allowance of 5*s.* per diem being granted to the police magistrate in charge of the mountain district for forage for two horses.

No. 4. *Contingencies.*—The following departments, viz., Secretary's, Treasurer's, Printing, Auditor's, Judicial, Educational, Medical, Gaol, and Managers, having drawn this year much under the amount estimated will explain the reason of the difference.

No. 5. *Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities.*—With the exception of 50*l.* granted to the widow of the late manager, Vincent, only 143*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* has been expended in the Colony under this head. The balance is for pensions paid in England, of which no account has been rendered to the treasury by the Crown agents.

No. 6. *Revenue Services ex. of Establishment.*—This excess it chiefly caused by an allowance to the commissioners for settlement of claims to Crown lands at British Sherbro.

No. 7. *Administration of Justice ex. of Establishment.*—The sum of 100*l.* having been granted to Captain Bravo, the commissioner of the supreme court, who sat during the absence of Chief Justice Carr, will explain the reason of an increase under this head.

No. 8. *Ecclesiastical ex. of Establishment.*—An extra grant of 100*l.* to the native pastorate, and a grant of 50*l.* to the church at Sherbro, will account for this increase.

No. 9. *Education ex. of Establishment.*—Out of the amount voted to be at the disposal of the board of education, only 40*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* was drawn previous to its suspension, 120*l.* was granted to the C. M. Society and native pastorate schools, 100*l.* to the Wesleyan Mission Schools, 25*l.* to Lady Huntingdon's School, and 10*l.* as prizes to the grammar school.

No. 10. *Hospital ex. Establishment.*—The decrease between the amount voted and that expended is to be attributed to fewer patients being admitted into the hospital.

No. 11. *Police and Gaols ex. Establishment.*—The amount expended for clothing for the police has been very small this year. There has also been a decrease in the amount for subsistence of prisoners in the districts. The gaol items have been much under the estimate.

No. 12. *Charitable Allowances.*—The amount under this head, a "Grant towards the relief of the poor of this Colony," is drawn quarterly, and disbursed by the colonial chaplain. It has, however, not been customary to send to the treasury a return showing who are the recipients of this charity.

No. 13. *Rent.*—The amount of rent voted for the government schools, 130*l.*, had not all been drawn out up to the end of the year. The item for police barracks, under which is borne rent for the manager and sub-collector at British Sherbro, is under the amount estimated.

No. 14. *Transport.*—The increase under this head is caused by amounts paid for passages of managers, police, and others to and from Bulama, Sherbro, Isle de Loss, also for oxen-men to and from Madeira.

No. 15. *Conveyance of Mails.*—Out of the amount voted only 84*l.* has been paid for the conveyance of the mail between Freetown and Sherbro.

No. 16. *Works and Buildings.*—Under this head 3,700*l.* was voted for general repairs, &c., and 2,000*l.* for Government House. Out of the former item 3,613*l.* has been expended, viz., articles purchased, 1,354*l.*; pay of mechanics, 1,761*l.*; pay of sawyers, 80*l.*; pay of oxenmen, 208*l.*; board of oxenmen, 4*l.*; cattle provender, 77*l.*; oxen imported, 55*l.*; repairs at the Cape House and in the districts, 49*l.*; and a small amount for coal and sundries. 916*l.* for the purchase of pine boards appears to be the only item defrayed out of the 2,000*l.* voted for Government House.

No. 17. *Roads, Streets, and Bridges.*—This large increase is to be attributed to many bridges requiring repairs in the districts, in making new roads and bridges at British Sherbro, and to the purchase of materials and pay of mechanics and labourers.

No. 18. *Miscellaneous services.*—The increase under this head is owing to 230*l.* 5*s.* 3*d*, paid for costs and charges in the case of Rolet v. The Queen for customs seizure.

No. 20. *Aborigines.*—The amount spent for this service has been considerably under the estimate, rents and customs 309*l.*, board and lodging 108*l.*, presents 122*l.*, education of sons of native chiefs at the grammar school 108*l.*, and a grant of 30*l.* to the Pongas mission school.

No. 19. *Advances.*—Nothing is estimated for under this head, as the amounts advanced are afterwards repaid.

No. 21. *Drawbacks and Refund of Duties.*—Not estimated for. Out of this amount 69*l.* was for refund of duty from the customs.

No. 22. *Remittances.*—Not in estimate. This amount has been sent to the agents general to meet expenses incurred by them on account of the Colony. No account has been sent to the treasury showing how it has been disbursed.

No. 23. *Repayment of Deposits.*—Not estimated; this is chiefly from the amount deposited on account of the Wilberforce Testimonial.

No. 24. *Colonial Steamer.*—Not on the estimate; the "Corra Linn" not having arrived out when it was prepared for 1867.

No. 25. *Wilberforce Testimonial.*—This being a grant of Council after the estimate was passed, it could not appear in it.

	£
On comparison of the estimate for 1867 - -	53,058
with expenditure for same year - - - - -	68,638
there will be shown a difference of - - -	15,580

in excess of disbursement over estimate.

This difference of 15,580*l.* between the estimate and expenditure for this year arises from nothing having been estimated for the following services: Advances, Drawbacks and refund of Duties, Remittances, Repayment of Deposits, Colonial Steamer, and Wilberforce Testimonial, as per remarks Nos. 19 and 21 to 25. But on comparing the revenue with the expenditure, viz.:—

	£
Revenue - - - - -	65,522
Expenditure - - -	68,638
there is only an actual excess of - - -	3,116

And had the bonds, as per remark No. 1 of Comparative Statement of Revenue, been paid prior to 31st December this deficiency would in a great measure I think have been covered.

RETURN showing the amount of Rovenue received at Sierra Leone in the years 1866 and 1867.

Heads of Services.	Revenue in 1866.	Revenue in 1867.	Reference to Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Customs - - - - -	32,188 3 0½	29,963 2 7¼	1
Licenses - - - -	4,542 18 0	4,249 14 0	2
Rent, ex. of lands - - -	961 7 3	1,003 12 0	3
Taxes - - - -	3,937 16 11	3,964 7 1	4
Fines, forfeitures, and fees - -	1,106 13 4¼	1,234 6 2½	5
Fees of office - - -	7 7 0	5 5 0	6
Land sales - - - - -	35 3 6	66 14 8	7
Sale of Government property -	16 9 0	104 2 4	8
Reim. in aid of Government expenditure - - - - -	412 9 1	447 8 7	9
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	310 14 11	654 18 11	10
Hospital stoppages - - -	3,856 19 4	3,500 5 0	11
Advances repaid - - -	10,124 9 0	9,632 6 5¾	12
Postage - - - - -	275 16 3	364 3 1½	13
Deposits - - - - -	1,073 0 5½	1,269 3 8	14
Parliamentary grant - -	3,374 4 7½	3,062 10 0	15
Special receipts - - - -	39 17 11	—	16
Colonial Steamer - - -	—	6,000 0 11½	17
Total - -	62,263 9 7¾	65,522 0 7½	

SIERRA LEONE.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Revenue of Sierra Leone for the years 1866 and 1867.

No. 1. *Customs.*—This deficiency is to be attributed to the new ordinance which gave six months to pay the bonds instead of three months as before, consequently bonds which would have fallen due before 31st December were not paid until after that date.

No. 2. *Licenses.*—This difference is owing to fewer wholesale and retail licenses for spirits being taken out in Freetown, although there has been an increase in the rural districts. Marriage licenses have been fewer this year, but there has been an increased number of boat and canoe licenses issued, and additional auctioneers and pilot licenses.

No. 3. *Rents ex. Lands.*—The rents of the general markets have continued the same as those of last year. There has been a falling off in pound fees, which is to be attributed to the effects of the last cattle ordinance, but an increase from rents of pews in St. George's Cathedral (some back amounts having been paid up) and also from factories.

No. 4. *Taxes.*—There has been a decrease in the amount of house and land and road taxes from Freetown, and house and land tax from Bulama, but an increase from the rural districts of the Colony, although no road tax appears to be collected from the 1st eastern and a small amount from the mountain districts.

No. 5. *Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court.*—A slight increase of fees in the new court of summary jurisdiction. Also of fines and fees from the supreme court, the former imposed on jurors for non-attendance. A decrease of police fines and fees for Freetown, but increase of the same in the rural districts. Very few claims to grants of lands has caused a falling off in fees from the land commissioner's office. The registrar general's fees are very nearly the same as last year, but there has been an increase in fees from the sheriff's department. There has been an increase of stoppages of pay imposed on subordinate officials for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders.

No. 6. *Fees of Office.*—Only five grants for land have been issued this year.

No. 7. *Land Sales.*—This amount is chiefly derived from sale of lots in the new burial ground. This year the first sale of land in British Quiah for 41 acres was effected.

No. 8. *Sale of Government Property.*—A larger quantity of condemned government stores sold. Also oil drippings from the Cape light house.

No. 9. *Reimbursement in aid of Government Expenses.*—This increase to be attributed to more soldiers being in civil confinement. There has been a smaller amount paid for convict labour from the public. School fees and repayments on account of Crown agents are nearly the same as last year.

No. 10. *Miscellaneous Receipts.*—The amount of 480*l.* on account of the "Corra Linn," paid by the Crown agents occasions an increase under this head, but there has been a smaller amount received on account of tithes from the rural districts.

No. 11. *Hospital Stoppages.*—Fewer liberated Africans have been admitted into the colonial hospital this year.

No. 12. *Advances repaid.*—This is for sums which have been advanced to district managers, surveyor, and others, and accounted for. The amount advanced and repaid this year is within 10*l.*

No. 13. *Postage.*—The establishment of the bi-monthly mail has caused an increase in the number of letters sent to and from England.

No. 14. *Deposits.*—This head of service is very uncertain, the amount this year is chiefly from a deposit of 756*l.* on account of the Wilberforce Testimonial, and 400*l.* lodged in the chest by one Harry Thomas.

No. 15. *Parliamentary Grant.*—Governor Blackall being absent on leave, half salary was drawn by the officer administering the government.

No. 16. *Special Receipts.*—This head of service was introduced into the accounts in 1866, but the revenue derived from that source should have been carried to "Miscellaneous Receipts."

No. 17. *Colonial Steamer.*—The revenue under this head is received from the commissariat on account of the parliamentary grant for the steamer "Corra Linn."

The total amount of revenue for 1867 appears to be in excess of that for 1866, but deducting the amount paid for the colonial steamer it will be seen to be less. I do not think, however, that the actual revenue has been less, as the new ordinance connected with the customs, as per remark No. 1, prevented many bonds which would have fallen due under the old system being paid into the treasury until some time after the expiration of the year.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. E. KENNEDY, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 27.) Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 22, 1868.

MY LORD DUKE,

REFERRING to my Despatch, No. 22 of the 11th ultimo, I have now the honour to transmit herewith the duplicate Blue Book for the Settlement of the Gambia for the year 1867, accompanied by the Administrator's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor in Chief.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 44.) Government House, Bathurst, Gambia, June 4, 1868. GAMBIA.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the Settlements of the Gambia, for the year 1867, with my report thereon.

I have, &c.

To his Excellency
Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor in Chief.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CHAS. G. E. PATEY,
Rear-Admiral, Administrator.

Taxes and Duties.

The principal sources of revenue are:—	£	s.	d.
Import duties	9,627	15	7
Export duties on ground nuts	4,783	6	0
Do. on hides	179	0	10
Auction duties	59	19	5
Ad valorem duties on imports	2,102	8	6
Quarantine dues	82	19	0
Tonnage dues	2,026	14	0
Pilotage	706	13	0
Licences	710	0	0
Land revenue	218	12	6
Rents, exclusive of land	655	14	1
Fines and forfeitures	72	8	3
Reimbursements in aid	140	15	7

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
The revenue of 1867	21,641	5	10
exceeded that of 1866	15,781	14	9
by	5,859	11	1

This increase arises mainly from augmented duties on wines and spirits and on tobacco, and from an *ad valorem* duty on imports, a considerable increase having at the same time taken place in the quantity of duty paying articles imported. These duties were imposed to remedy a falling off in the revenue, and were in operation during a part only of 1866, but during the whole of 1867. Accordingly, in 1867 the duty on spirits produced 3,211*l.* as against 2,046*l.* in 1866, on wine, 1,864*l.* as against 676*l.*, on tobacco, 1,995*l.* as against 786*l.*, and the *ad valorem* duty, 2,102*l.* as against 716*l.*

The export duty on ground nuts collected in 1867 also exceeded that in 1866 by 627*l.*

The expenditure of 1867, 18,664*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, exceeded that of 1866, 17,681*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, by 982*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The accounts of 1867 are charged with an extraordinary item of 2,528*l.* 6*s.*, the price paid for a building to give accommodation for the offices of the various Government departments and now used for that purpose. By the purchase the Colony is relieved from a rent of 200*l.* a year formerly paid.

Imports and Exports.

The trade and production of the Colony show a considerable increase. The value of the imports and exports of the two years under comparison were as follows, viz.:—

Imports 1867.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	104,367	8	0
France	37,565	13	0
United States	21,321	16	0
Leeward Coast	12,656	14	8
Windward Coast	11,637	19	0
British West Indies	5,871	0	0
Total imports 1867	193,420	10	8
„ 1866	108,199	11	3
Increase in 1867	85,220	19	5

GAMBIA.

Exports 1867.

	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	34,305	8	4
France	157,643	11	6
United States	13,905	4	0
Leeward Coast	4,748	0	0
Windward Coast	2,992	13	3
British West Indies	787	10	0
Total exports 1867	214,382	7	1
„ 1866	158,370	3	11
Increase in 1867	£ 56,012	3	2

Legislation.

The principal legislative measures of 1867 were—

1. "An ordinance to amend the law of evidence," incorporating in the colonial code the provisions of certain recent imperial Acts on this subject;
2. "An ordinance to amend the laws relating to jurors and juries;" and
3. "An ordinance to regulate procedure in the court of civil and criminal justice."

The two latter are designed to facilitate the working of the new system of administering justice introduced in 1866. As the period during which the system has been in operation is too short to afford any reliable results I purposely refrain from making any remarks regarding it.

Works and Buildings.

The bridges in the Combo district having fallen into decay, mainly through the ravages of the white ant on the timber of which they are constructed, it has been necessary to renew them. They are not yet finished, and will require a large outlay in 1868 to complete them.

At the Oyster Creek ferry (which is maintained by the Colonial Government) a toll on passengers and cattle used formerly to be levied. This was remitted during the administration of my predecessor. But, as I consider it a most reasonable impost, I have directed the toll to be collected as formerly. It is willingly paid by the people, and its product will not only relieve the colonial chest from a heavy annual demand for the maintenance of the ferry, but also return a surplus to the revenue of the colony.

The enlargement of the church, which was undertaken, during my temporary absence, by the acting administrator, will I fear entail a heavy charge on the Colonial funds. The enlargement, however, was much required; and the church, which was very small and uncomfortable, is greatly improved.

Extensive repairs on Government House will soon be inevitable, the whole of the woodwork being decayed and destroyed by white ants, as well as the furniture.

In all public works undertaken here the cost of labour is a heavy item, amounting often to two thirds, or near as much as three fourths of the whole. This arises not only from the comparatively high rate of wages, but also from the idle and dilatory habits of most of the native workmen. The evil seems only capable of being met by an efficient and trustworthy superintendence.

Schools.

The school of the Established Church has, I regret to state, been much neglected; but I have placed the same amount on the estimates (100*l.*) as has been given to the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic schools, which will enable a schoolmaster, books, &c. to be provided.

The Roman Catholic and Wesleyan schools are numerously, but not regularly, attended.

Military.

The left wing of the 1st West India Regiment is stationed at Bathurst, consisting of 7 officers, 12 serjeants, 3 drummers, and 183 rank and file, from which a detachment

is stationed at Cape St. Mary's, consisting of 1 officer, 1 serjeant, and 19 men, and one detachment of 1 officer and 12 men at Port Bullen.

There are no regular troops now stationed at McCarthy's Island.

Gaol.

The gaol at Bathurst has been repaired. It is clean and well ventilated, and the accommodation fully suffices for present requirements.

General.

The health of the community has been generally good throughout the whole year.

The crop of ground nuts, the staple article of exportation, has been exceptionally large, during this as well as the preceding year, and trade has been, on the whole, flourishing.

In the habits of the native population there is yet much room for improvement. Even among those who have been most closely and longest in contact with European usages and ideas there is a want of regular and steady industry, a carelessness and improvidence, lying, thieving, and in many cases an addiction to intemperance and other vices of civilization much to be lamented. But it would be unjust to others were I to refrain from adding that there are many persons to whom the above remarks (which I regret to be obliged to make) are no way applicable, and who on the contrary are intelligent, sober, and industrious.

Of less immediate, but of the wider concernment than anything relating to the Colony, is the welfare of the numerous tribes who inhabit the surrounding countries. I am induced to go thus beyond the subject of this report for the purpose of calling attention to what must be regarded as a most serious hindrance to the civilization of Africa. I mean the wars which are of almost constant occurrence between hostile tribes, or combinations of tribes banded together against a common enemy.

In these wars, life is sacrificed, the means of subsistence is destroyed, cultivation is neglected, industries are paralysed, disease and starvation follow. Europeans find the hazards of the trade become so great as not even its large profits serve to counterbalance.

Although nothing can put a stop to these wars but the gradual introduction of civilized and peaceful habits, I cannot but consider that it would tend towards lessening their frequency were arms and ammunition not so freely introduced as an article of commerce by European traders among the natives, as is the case at present.

And I go to the length of urgently recommending that if practicable their importation should be absolutely prohibited.

It would be necessary however that any such measure should be arranged and carried out in concert with the French Government; since no restrictions that the British Government could impose in the Gambia would be of any real avail unless a similar course of policy were pursued in the French settlements on the Senegal north of the Gambia, and Casamanza on the south.

But if the French would concur, and heartily co-operate with us, in suppressing this most pernicious traffic, I think an important step would be gained towards relieving Africa from probably the greatest curse by which she is now afflicted.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

No. 1.

RETURN of the Number of Children born within the year 1867.

Bathurst, Gambia, 17th July 1868.

County, Parish, or District.	Number.
Bathurst, Island of St. Mary's -	87
M'Carthy's Island - -	31
Total - -	118

P. JOHNSON,
Colonial Registrar.

GAMBIA.

No. 2.

RETURN of the Number of Children dying within the year 1867, at not more than three months of age.

Bathurst, Gambia, 17th July 1868.

County, Parish, or District.	Number.
Bathurst, Island of St. Mary's -	57
M'Carthy's Island - - -	9
Total - -	66

P. JOHNSON,
Colonial Registrar.

No. 3.

RETURN of the Number of Children vaccinated within the year 1867 at Bathurst, Gambia.

Colonial Hospital, 25th February 1868.

Period.		Vaccinated.				
From.	To.	1 to 12 Months.	12 Months to 6 Years.	6 Years to 10 Years.	10 Years to 20 Years.	Total.
1st January -	6th November -	—	—	—	—	—
6th November -	31st December	33	147	62	21	263
	Total -	33	147	62	21	263

J. H. JEANS, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

No. 4.

Court House, Gambia, 16th November 1867.

Before D. P. Chalmers, Esq., J.P., and Benjamin Hinde, Esq., J.P.

Nancy Rendall.—Charged under the Vaccination Ordinance with refusing to have her child vaccinated.

Hezekiah Stapleton, duly sworn, states "I am one of the colonial vaccinators. On the 1st of the present month I went into prisoner's yard and asked her if her child was vaccinated, and she said no, but it could be done; but afterwards, through the mother's persuasion, refused, and sent the child somewhere out of the way; and that example prevented other people from having their children vaccinated."

Mrs. Rendall cautioned, that the vaccination ordinance must be complied with under penalties, and dismissed for the time.

(Signed) D. P. CHALMERS, J. P.
(Signed) BENJN. HINDE, J. P.

No. 5.

EXPLANATION of the difference between the number stated in Return No. 1 and the aggregate of the numbers 2, 3, and 4.

1. The number of births during the year were 118, and the deaths 66, leaving a difference of 52 children.

2. The aggregate number vaccinated during the year exceeded the number of births by 145, in consequence of the vaccination of the latter number of grown persons.

3. The difference between the number of births and the number of children in respect of whom penalties or sentences of imprisonment have been inflicted, under the second section of the Local Ordinance of the 2d April 1856, is 117.

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
16th July 1868.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. E. KENNEDY, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 57.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Sierra Leone, July 15, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Settlement of the Gold Coast for the year 1867, accompanied by the Administrator's Report thereon.

I trust that, considering the adverse circumstances with which the Administrator has had to contend, your Grace will consider the general statement satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,

Governor in Chief.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c. &c.

(No. 63.)

SIR, Government House, Cape Coast, June 11, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1866, with a report thereon.

2. Your Excellency may not be aware that no Blue Book has been sent from this Settlement for several years. I therefore crave indulgence for the imperfections of the one now forwarded, and trust to be able to furnish much fuller information in next year's report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. T. USSHER,

Administrator.

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B., Governor in Chief.

REPORT of the Blue Book of the Gold Coast 1867.

Taxes and Duties.

The taxes and duties levied in 1867 are similar to those levied in preceding years.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1867 differs but little from that of 1866, although the latter is increased by a large receipt on account of "special payments" for sundry services. In reality the receipts for 1867 show a decided, though moderate improvement.

The expenditure for 1867 is less than that for 1866, the amounts standing thus:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Expenditure 1866 - - -	11,589	15	7
Expenditure 1867 - - - -	10,993	5	3

Public Debt.

The debt to the Crown Agents amounts to 1,055*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* on the 31st December 1867. As the convention of 5th March with Holland will probably shortly enable us to obtain a better revenue, and the parliamentary grant for this year exceeds that of last year by 1,000*l.*, this amount will be easily covered.

Military Posts.

The only habitable forts are Cape Coast Castle and Anamaboe, and Fort William, the others being more or less ruined. The two first-mentioned buildings are in tolerable repair, and the guns in good order.

Fort William, situate about 225 feet above the sea, shows an excellent light, visible about 20 miles in clear weather.

GOLD COAST.

Public Works.

The only work worth noticing is the road to Akropong from Accra, a distance of 45 miles. This work is steadily progressing under the superintendence of the Basle Mission.

Legislation.

No ordinance of much importance has been passed, if we except Nos. 5 and 6, which contain provisions for 1868, and do not come into operation until that year.

No. 1 of 1867 was much required, and works very well, giving satisfaction and security to all in sales by auction.

Civil Establishments.

The changes that occur in this department on the Gold Coast are very numerous, owing to the constant and quickly recurring absence of Europeans, and the incapacity and dishonesty of the native employés.

There are no changes worthy of special remark.

The police are very inefficient, and require to be recruited from other than local sources. A radical change is in contemplation. The cost of the new scheme being probably about the same as heretofore.

I think the printing department should be separated from the chaplain's duties. It is at present very inefficiently performed. In fact the Colonial Secretary superintends it. Many good printers are to be obtained from Sierra Leone.

Pensions.

These remain the same as the preceding year, with the exception of two deaths. They are very small, and are given to old servants of the African company, and to emancipated slaves.

Population.

It is of course impossible to arrive at a correct estimate of this "item" in so large and unexplored a region. Competent judges assume 400,000 to be a close estimate. They can muster an army of about 50,000 well armed men, and are very clannish in their feelings. The European population suffered very much in 1867 from losses by sickness.

There is no system of registration, and very great obstacles are presented towards effecting one. The superstition of the natives throws great difficulties in the way of any such scheme.

Ecclesiastical.

The Wesleyan and Basle Missions work exceedingly well. The system of the latter is especially practical; and their settlements in the mountains of Aquapim are worthy of a visit. They combine practical with religious instruction, and to that end have workshops and artificers, ranking as lay brothers in their stations. They have turned out many excellent workmen, and have erected many good buildings, such as schoolhouses and chapels throughout the eastern districts of Accra, Aquapim, and Croboe, to which their labours are confined.

Their coffee plantations and farms in Aquapim bring them in fair returns. But, in consequence of the war in Germany in 1866, many of their accustomed sources of contribution in that country and in Switzerland failed them, and plunged them into debt.

The Wesleyan system appears more popular with the semi-educated Gold Coast African, as not involving anything like manual labour, which is unfortunately at a discount with them. The missionaries do much good, however, and have a strong civilizing influence.

Education.

While the Wesleyan and Basle Missions have an excellent and successful system of schools the Government institutions are at a low ebb. The girls school has revived a little, but the boys school for the present does not exist, the master having been found so incompetent that it was necessary to dispense with his services. A suitable teacher will, if possible, be obtained this year from Sierra Leone.

Imports and Exports.

The imports and exports are very good, showing a considerable increase over former years.

	£
The imports amount to - -	206,920
Those of 1861 amount to - -	162,970
Showing an increase of - - -	44,000 in seven years.

And the exports for similar periods show a steady increase, being in 1867 160,291*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* (not counting Dixcove, whence no returns were obtained), while in 1861 they amounted to 145,819*l.*

General remarks.

I am of opinion that the people have made marked progress towards civilization during the past ten years. Should the convention for an interchange of territory with Holland on the Gold Coast finally come into peaceful operation, and by obtaining good officers a thorough system of collection of revenue be instituted, the yearly revenue cannot in a year or two be estimated at less than 25,000*l.* per annum from all sources. Much will depend upon the political aspect of the settlements, but such a revenue would enable the local government to work much good. For road-making, prisons, district hospitals, &c. the want of funds is much felt; and means are also required for extending the influence of our Courts of Laws which at present are limited to Cape Coast and Accra.

The want of water in the dry season is a great drawback on the Gold Coast. The better classes rely upon their own tanks for a collection of rain water during the bad season; but the poor people are much distressed at times, and I have known water selling in Accra at 2½*d.* per gallon, a heavy sum to a poor native.

Crime in these settlements is principally confined to offences of a secondary class, such as larceny, panyarring, forgery, and cheating. Murder is rare (except in time of war). When it occurs, it is usually on provocation, or in consequence of a quarrel, and committed in heat. Wife murder appears common in the eastern districts. Human sacrifice, I regret to state, still exists in parts, but it is severely punished when practicable.

The standard of morality is low, and the vile "customs" of the natives, still existing, appear to have no object but drunkenness, riot, and dissipation. These "customs" take place on certain occasions, such as burial of the dead, &c. The most objectionable is the "yam custom" or "Black Christmas," which takes place in August, and at such seasons, unless restrained, the natives generally fight, and resorting to arms many deaths are the result. They are gradually being abolished in the towns of Cape Coast and Accra, and I trust will soon disappear from them for ever.

Agriculture remains still in a poor condition. The natives appear to have an insuperable objection to tilling the ground beyond what is absolutely necessary for their subsistence. A good deal of attention however is paid to the palm tree, but nature has been so bountiful in this respect that but little care is needed. Cotton, requiring steady labour and supervision, is quite neglected in Fantee, and but sparsely cultivated in the Eastern Districts.

(Signed) H. T. USSHER,
Administrator.

Government House, Cape Coast,
June 11, 1868.

LAGOS.

No. 9.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

(No. 42.)

Government House, Sierra Leone,
October 3, 1868.

My Lord Duke,

1. I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book (in duplicate) for the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1867, with the Administrator's Report thereon, which shows a most satisfactory progress in the trade and revenue of the Settlement.

LAGOS.

2. This Settlement, but a few years since notorious as the stronghold of slave dealers on this coast, is rapidly becoming a place of commercial importance, and will by these unerring means disseminate the blessings of order and civilization among the surrounding tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor in Chief.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 60.)

Government House, Lagos,
September 14, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1867. I regret that I have not been enabled to forward it sooner owing to my late absence from the Settlement when I visited your Excellency at Sierra Leone, together with a great pressure of other business which has compelled me to delay its transmission.

2. There are some peculiar circumstances connected with this Settlement which renders the establishment of the police force somewhat large for the number of its population. The inhabitants of the town and island of Lagos amount to 35,000, and the roughly estimated number of the rural population being about 75,000.

3. From the adjacent territories, possessing governments which exercise little or no control over the lawless portion of their population, this settlement is often visited by the scum of the inhabitants of these countries, who frequently come over in gangs for the purposes of theft and fraud; as an instance, I enclose copies of night report of police inspector furnished me only yesterday, by which your Excellency will observe, as I have above stated, that the Island of Lagos attracts to its shores migratory gangs of thieves who, tempted by its comparative wealth, endeavour to enrich themselves by plundering the property of its inhabitants. I have caused to be taken the number of persons who have crossed from the main land, at Ebute-Metta, to the wharf or landing place of Ebute-Ero, between the months of February and July,—they number 116,992; also those going from the said wharf at Lagos to the before-mentioned wharf on the main land during the same period,—they number 112,668. It is therefore apparent that by this single ferry alone 4,324 more people came into Lagos than the number who went out; but this is only one single ferry; to this number must be added those who come to and embark from the several wharves on the Island at which are landed passengers to and from Lagos to Porto Novo and the Western District, and to and from Lagos to Ikorodu (a point of departure to the interior and the Niger); also the markets of Ijebu and the Eastern District. From the great influx of strangers above enumerated at the one point, viz., Ebute-Ero, coupled with the rapidly enlarging dimensions of the building area of the town of Lagos, it is almost impossible to estimate what may be the extent to which the increase of the population may attain in a few years.

4. From the foregoing observations as well as the following tabular statement I think it will be apparent that while the wealth and population of the Settlement maintains its present onward tendency, the increase of crime may be considered not unproportionate to the increase of its population.

—	Police Court.			Chief Magistrate's Court.			
	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Totals.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Total.	Total Convictions.
1865 - -	149	321	470	19	48	67	537
1866 - -	195	342	537	17	41	58	595
1867 - -	276	647	923	9	53	62	985

5. It will be observed that our revenue is at present almost entirely derived from our customs dues, and that therefore the population have not yet been brought to feel the weight of direct taxation; but there can be no doubt that a very large amount of revenue may be raised from various sources in the course of a few years, but it will require to be gradually and judiciously introduced amongst a people unaccustomed even to the slightest system of direct taxation.

6. The customs revenue for the year 1867 amounted to 25,640*l.*, showing an increase over that of 1866 of 6,402*l.*; this addition may be accounted for by the increase of confidence in the Government of the Settlement, whose presence and beneficial action influence in a very great degree the continuance of peace in the immediate neighbourhood of its frontier, upon which peace and quietness the prosperity of the trade of Lagos in a very great measure depends; also to the increase of the exports in palm kernels and cotton, and to the late introduction of the groundnut and beni-seed trade. The following statement will demonstrate the increase of the trade in the articles above enumerated:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs Revenue, 1866 - - - -	19,237	4	6½
Do. do. 1867 - - - -	25,640	0	5
Increase - - - -	6,402	15	10½

Palm Kernels.

	Tons.	cwts.
1865 - - - - - - -	2,664	15
1866 - - - - - - -	7,196	0
1867 - - - - - - -	13,619	0

Cotton.

	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1863 - - - - - -	45	1	25
1864 - - - - - -	1,899	2	18
1865 - - - - - -	3,874	0	24
1866 - - - - - -	6,802	1	22
1867 - - - - - -	7,112	1	18

Beni-seed.

	Tons.	cwts.
1864 - - - - - - -	2	10
1866 - - - - - - - -	11	10
1867 - - - - - - -	298	10

The groundnut trade commenced here in 1866, when eight tons were exported. In 1867, 173 tons were exported. The introduction of these products in the export trade of the Settlement will eventually contribute largely to the increase of its revenue, as it will enable the merchants to engage themselves in the purchase of these articles during those months which had previously been dull and stagnant, the palm oil trade occupying only some six months of the year.

7. The following statement of the increase of imports and exports for the last five years will, I trust, be considered satisfactory.

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1863 -	171,146	13	6	153,341	7	3
1864 -	120,796	11	3	166,093	8	1
1865 -	114,284	5	7	175,636	1	2
1866 -	220,976	4	4	262,699	9	4
1867 -	321,977	19	10	513,157	18	3

The decrease of the imports in 1864 and 1865 was due to the disturbed state of the frontier, caused by the war among the adjacent tribes, still it must be observed that our exports continued steadily on the increase, even during that depressed period.

LAGOS.

1866 and 1867 present a steady increase in both imports and exports, and the present healthy and active state of trade, together with the quietness which prevails in the immediate neighbourhood of our frontier, leads me to anticipate that there will be no material diminution in the Return under this head for the following year.

8. In land sales an increase of 51*l.* 9*s.* is shown over that of 1866, very little having been effected in the selling of country Crown lands:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1866	64	1	0
Ditto 1867	115	10	0
Increase	51	9	0

9. *Land Revenue.*—Under this head is a decrease of 135*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* below that of 1866; this is partly in consequence of the unsatisfactory working of this department, which I have now removed to my own office. In next year's Report I trust to be enabled to show that the arrangement has been attended with a satisfactory result:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1866	254	18	6
Ditto 1867	119	5	0
Decrease	135	13	6

10. *Rents exclusive of Lands.*—Owing to a very limited demand for gunpowder and the remains of a large stock on hand, which had been imported in the years 1864 and 1865 to meet the demands from the interior by the tribes then at war, a less quantity has been stored, and consequently the revenue under this head has fallen below that of 1866, of 124*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1866	241	15	11
Ditto, 1867	117	7	0
Decrease	124	8	11

11. *Postage.*—Under this head is shown an increase of 55*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* over that of 1866; this arose from the money order business which commenced in February 1867, with the United Kingdom and Sierra Leone; also the increased correspondence by the bi-monthly mails. The subjoined statement of the operation of the Money Order Office will show the ready appreciation of the public for the benefit of the accommodation thus afforded them; and the experience of the present year (1868) proves how largely the amount of the business of this branch may be expected to increase, money orders having been issued amounting to 14,227*l.*

Post Office Return.

—	1865.	1866.	1867.
Number of Letters	15,218	17,288	23,585
Number of newspapers, &c.	5,533	3,755	18,94
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Income	107 15 0	102 8 6	158 6 10
Expenditure	96 3 4	109 2 3	95 17 4

N.B.—The decrease in the number of newspapers is caused by the publication of the local paper (the "Anglo African") having ceased at the end of 1865, and that of the "Iwe Irohin" having also ceased in consequence of the press of the latter paper having been broken up and plundered by the Egbas in October 1867 when the Christians were expelled from Abbeokuta.

Return of the Money Order Office.

Year.	No. of Offices.	No. of Orders issued.	Amount.	No. of Orders paid.	Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1867 - -	1	618	4,695 7 8	31	142 6 4

N.B.—The Money Order business was only established in 1867 and the issues commenced on the 1st February. From 1st January to 4th September 1868, 1639 orders have been issued amounting to 14,227*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

12. *Licenses.*—Under this head appears an increase of 69*l.* 10*s.* over that of 1866, owing to the increase of the retail of spirit licenses, and to more boats and canoe licenses having been issued.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue, 1866 - - - - -	906	10	0
Ditto, 1867 - - - - -	976	0	0
Increase - - - - -	69	10	0

13. *Fees of Office.*—Increase 58*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* over that of the previous year, occasioned by a larger number of deeds, powers of attorney, and Krooboy's agreements having been registered.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue, 1866 - - - - -	75	17	4
Ditto, 1867 - - - - -	133	17	11
Increase - - - - -	58	0	7

14. *Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court.*—Under this head is shown an increase of 279*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* over that of 1866, from a greater number of cases heard in the several courts within the Settlement.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue, 1866 - - - - -	711	0	$6\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto, 1867 - - - - -	990	3	9
Increase - - - - -	279	3	$2\frac{3}{4}$

15. *Parliamentary Grant.*—An apparent decrease of 660*l.* shown under this head is to be explained by the balance of the grant due to this Settlement for 1865, and which was drawn for over and above the Parliamentary Grant of 1866.

	£	s.	d.
Amount drawn for in 1866 - - - -	1,660	0	0
Ditto Do. 1867 - - - -	1,000	0	0
Decrease - - - - -	660	0	0

16. *Sale of Government Property.*—Under this head is a decrease of 78*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* below that of 1866, occasioned by Calabar mats made in the gaol, smaller number being sold in consequence of the Government requiring these articles for public works, and from the sale of presents from native chiefs a less sum having been realized.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue, 1866 - - - - -	208	11	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, 1867 - - - - -	130	0	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Decrease - - - - - -	78	10	8

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17. *Reimbursement in aid of Expenses incurred by Government.*—An increase of 8*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* over the previous year has arisen from fees received for the care of sick seamen admitted in the Colonial Hospital established in the latter part of 1867.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1866	39	17	6
Ditto, 1867	48	10	4
Increase	8	12	10

18. *Government Vessels.*—Under this head is an increase of 319*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* over that of 1866, acquired by the services of the colonial steamer "Eyo," in towage of vessels, and the landing and shipping of goods and produce.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1866	168	1	1
Ditto, 1867	487	5	7
Increase	319	4	6

19. The whole increase of revenue for the year 1867 over and above that of 1866 amounts to 6,158*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, viz.:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total Revenue, 1866	23,816	11	8¼
Ditto, 1867	29,974	13	11¼
Increase	6,158	2	3¼

20. In reporting the expenditure for the year 1867, I must observe that the items under this head are in many cases both exceptional and large, arising from the pressing wants which so frequently present themselves in a new and rapidly increasing settlement, as well as from sanitary measures which from time to time are brought to my notice and require immediate attention; added to which the laying out of certain portions of the town of Lagos in blocks of buildings (wherein fires have taken place) and separated by broad streets; is a measure imperative and admits of no delay, seeing that the demolition of houses damaged by fire must necessarily cost less than the pulling down of houses in a complete condition, and is consequently attended with less expense to the revenue. The increase of expenditure under the head of "Roads, Streets, and "Bridges," for 1867, is 2,192*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* over that of 1866, of which was expended in

	£	*s.*	*d.*
the laying out of portions of the town, as above mentioned	910	5	0
2. Part payment of a sum of 1,023*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, incurred by a military expedition sent for the purpose of making roads through the Western District	863	2	4
3. Part payment towards the erection of a Custom House Pier; it has been completed and opened for traffic, at a cost of 817*l.* 15*s.*, which will be reimbursed to the Treasury by the 31st December 1869; the advantage of loading and unloading at this pier will make themselves apparent to the public, and it will after 1869 become a remunerative investment	419	12	4
	£2,192	19	8

21. Under the head of works and buildings is shown an increase of 4,276*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, occasioned—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. By the immediate necessity for the erection of a permanent Military Barracks for one company at a cost of	2,324	3	4
The Military up to this time having been quartered in a temporary hut on the ground floor.			
2. The erecting a permanent quarter at Ebute Metta for two officers at a cost of	130	0	0
Caused by the occupation of Ebute Metta by the military when that ground was claimed by the Egbas and our frontier threatened by them with invasion.			
Carried forward	2,454	3	4

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward -	2,454	3	4
3. The enclosure of ground at the back of Government House by a brick wall, taking in the site of the old gaol, upon which has been erected permanent stores for Colonial engineer, workshops, coal-sheds, warehouse for "Eyo's" stores, and residence of Government Kroo Boys, at a cost of - - - - - - -	430	16	0
4. For wood towards completion of Secretary's offices and residence -	170	16	3
5. Commencement of the erection of Custom House - - -	647	5	5
6. Brick wall around the town cemetery, the old mud wall having partially fallen down, and being most expensive in keeping in repair - - - - - - - - -	314	17	11
7. Part payment of planks and scantlings from an American vessel for various public buildings - - - - - - - - -	258	11	2
	£4,276	10	1

22. *Hospitals, exclusive of Establishments.*—The establishment of a colonial hospital has caused an increase of expenditure of only 97*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* over that of 1866. A temporary building has been hired for this purpose, as from the state of the revenue it had been heretofore only possible to make provision for cases of extreme need.

23. *Rent.*—An increase of 472*l.* 18*s.* appears under this head caused by—

	£	s.	d.
1. Arrears of rent for premises which had been temporarily occupied for the various public departments, viz., Secretary's, printing and post offices, and chief magistrate's court - - - - -	240	0	0
2. Temporary magazine for the storing of powder prior to completion of magazine in 1866 - - - - - - - - -	135	1	11
3. Rent of building occupied as a temporary gaol; the old gaol having been condemned as unhealthy, and standing within a too confined space of ground - - - - - - - -	30	5	0
4. Rent of house for Government Pilot - - - - -	32	15	7
5. Rent of residence for Kroo boys and dispensary - - -	34	15	6
	£472	18	0

24. *Miscellaneous services.*—Under this head is an increase of expenditure over that of 1866 of 904*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

	£	s.	d.
1. For purchase of house (not completed but suitable) for residence of collector and Colonial Secretary, and officers connected with the department of that officer. This house was in the market, and being adjacent to the Custom House, its purchase was for this reason effected. I need not point out the great advantage to the public, as well as to the Government, in the concentration of the public offices at one point - - - - - -	500	0	0
2. Purchase of residence for Civil Commandant of Badagry with Court House on ground floor; also a large new iron store suitable for police barracks at a cost of - - - - - - The necessities of the company holding these premises compelling them to offer them to the public, I was induced to sanction their purchase from the very pressing need of these buildings felt by the Government in conducting the affairs in the western district and the administration of justice therein. I may observe that the iron store alone is worth the entire purchase money.	300	0	0
3. A rope machine worked by crank capable of making a 4½-inch rope, intended for discipline of prisoners in gaol, and to utilize prisoners' labour, as well as the native fibre from which hemp is produced by the prisoners, viz., 1st, rope machine, 51*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*; 2d, treble-fold purchase blocks, 53*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* - - - - - -	104	19	5
	£904	19	5

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25. Transport services shows an increase of 148*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, occasioned—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. By the passage money of Kroo Boys to and from their country having become annual instead of bi-annual, the king and chiefs of the Kroo country preventing their people from entering into engagements longer than for one year - - - -	64	13	9
2. By purchase of canoes for the police visiting different markets -	84	0	0
	£148	13	9

26. *Establishments.*—It will be observed that there is an apparent decrease of 597*l.* under this head; but really this is not the case, part of the salaries and allowances due for the quarter ended 31st December not having been drawn until subsequent to that date.

27. *Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities.*—The apparent decrease under this head of 222*l.* 10*s.* is also fictitious, part of the pensions due for the quarter ended 31st December not having been drawn until subsequent to that date.

28. *Administration of justice exclusive of establishments.*—The increase under this head of 25*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* is caused from more inquests being held than in 1866.

29. *Ecclesiastical.*—The amount of 75*l.* was paid out of the sum of 100*l.*, granted by the administrator in Council toward the erection of a new church, in course of building by the Church Missionary Society.

30. *Education.*—The sum of 50*l.* was granted for the education of orphan children of slaves from the surrounding countries by the Administrator in Council. An excess of 6*l.* 18*s.* was spent under this head.

31. *Police and gaols.*—A decrease of 757*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* has been occasioned by the clothing and necessaries for the civil and armed police force for the year 1867 having been obtained from England, instead of being purchased in the settlement.

32. *Conveyance of mails.*—An increase of 45*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* is owing to the establishment of postal communication with—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Abbeokuta, viz. - - - - - - - - The Egbas not paying their share of the carriage of the post, and retaining all postage collected by them.	23	2	6
2. Ibadan - - - - - - - -	10	10	2
3. Eastern district - - - - - - -	12	0	0
	£45	12	8

33. *Interest.*—A decrease of 157*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* being first half-yearly instalment of interest for the current year on loan of 3,000*l.*

34. *Drawbacks and refund of duties.*—Under this head is shown a decrease of 829*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, occasioned by the repeal of ordinances for allowing drawbacks on goods exported to Porto Novo.

35. *Aborigines.*—The increase of 610*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* arose as follows, viz.:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Mission to Ibadan and Oyo whereby peace was secured to the surrounding country, and our trade continued undisturbed -	326	15	5
2. Part payment of mission to Dahomey to obtain release of Church Missionary Society's Catechist, "Doherty," and others - -	73	2	6
3. Presents to various native chiefs - - - - -	142	18	3
4. Maintenance of messengers from various chiefs of the surrounding countries - - - - - - - -	67	16	0
	£610	12	2

36. *Repayment of loans.*—One half of the loan of 500*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.*, contracted in 1865, consequent upon the expenses incurred by the settlement in maintaining the blockade of the Egba territory prior to driving the Egbas from our frontier in 1865, was paid during this year. I may observe that the balance with all interest has since been paid off.

37. I have now only to bring to your Excellency's notice the increase of revenue and expenditure as shown by the following tabular form:

Revenue.						Expenditure.					
Heads of Receipts.	1866.			1867.		Heads of Service.	1866.			1867.	
	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.		£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
Balance from 1866 -	—			220	14 2	Establishments - -	13,710	7	5½	13,113	7 4½
Customs - - -	19,237	4	6½	2,5640	0 5	Pensions, Retired Allowances, &c. - - -	1,633	6	8	1,410	16 8
Land Sales - - -	64	1	0	115	10 0	Revenue Services, ex. of Establishment - - -	—			—	
Land Revenue - -	254	18	6	119	5 6	Administration of Justice -	46	19	9	72	17 4
Rents, exclusive of Land -	241	15	11	117	7 0	Ecclesiastical, ex. of Establishment - - - - -	—			75	0 0
Postage - - -	102	8	6	158	6 10	Charitable Allowances -	—			—	
Licenses - - -	906	10	0	976	0 0	Education, ex. of Establishment	—			56	18 0
Fees of Office - -	75	17	4	133	17 11	Hospitals, ex. of Establishment	17	17	3	114	19 9
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court - - -	711	0	6¼	990	3 9	Police and Gaols, ex. of Establishment - - -	1,619	12	9	862	12 4
Parliamentary Grant -	1,660	0	0	1,000	0 0	Rent - - -	193	10	4	665	12 0
Miscellaneous Receipts -	144	9	9	58	19 7	Transport Services - -	441	13	1	590	6 10½
Sale of Government Property	208	11	4½	130	0 8½	Works and Buildings -	1,709	8	9	5,985	18 10½
Reimbursement - -	39	17	6	48	10 4	Roads, Streets, and Bridges -	147	7	2	2,340	6 10
Government vessels -	168	1	1	487	5 7	Conveyance of Mails - -	26	0	0	71	12 8
Surcharges recovered -	1	15	8	5	6 10	Miscellaneous Services -	1,806	16	9½	2,711	16 2½
						Interest - - -	400	0	0	242	11 4
						Remittances to Crown Agents	—			—	
						Drawbacks and Refund of Duties - - -	1,093	3	11½	263	15 6
						Aborigines - - -	756	5	9	1,366	17 11
						Suppressing Slavery - -	—			—	
						Repayment of Loans - -	—			250	0 7½
						Balance on 31st December -	—			0	7 10
Total - - -	23,816	11	8¼	30,195	8 1½	Total - - -	23,602	9	8½	30,195	8 1½

And I trust the results of the years 1866 and 1867 may be considered as proof satisfactory of the well-being of the settlement of Lagos.

I have, &c.

Governor
Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.

JOHN H. GLOVER,
Administrator.

Cape of Good Hope.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. E. Wodehouse, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

No. 91. Government House, Cape Town,
My Lord Duke, October 3, 1868.

I have the honour to forward for your Grace's information the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1867.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.
&c. &c. &c.

Natal.

NATAL.

No. 11.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Governor Keate to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

(No. 133.)

My Lord Duke, Government House, Natal, December 9, 1868.

I have the honour to forward to your Grace the Blue Book for Natal for 1867, and to offer my excuses for its late transmission. Its compilation has again been retarded by the collection of the agricultural statistics, which are still, I fear, hardly sufficiently accurate to justify the expense and trouble they entail upon the colony. My absence in Basutuland, and subsequently the long and laborious session of the Legislative Council, prevented my giving earlier attention to the preparation of my Report upon it, which I now enclose. In it I have endeavoured to bring under review the whole period which has elapsed since the Blue Book for 1862 was sent home by Lieut. Governor Scott, no report upon the state and prospects of the colony having been made since that date until now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. W. KEATE,
Lieut. Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

Report on Blue Book for 1867.

Revenue.

1. The financial period which I propose to pass in review, extending from the beginning of 1863 to the end of 1867, is of a striking character and well worthy of study.

2. The system on which the public revenue of Natal is raised has for its basis the customs duties upon imports. With the exception of a special impost falling exclusively upon the native population no other of the several heads of revenue specified in the schedule of taxes, duties, and fees contained in the Blue Book can be said to be in the nature of taxation imposing a general burden. They are for the most part charges which fall upon individuals in certain circumstances of their lives over which they have more or less control. The progress of the colony, therefore, as illustrated by the condition from year to year of its public income, can be clearly and very conveniently traced in the fluctuations of its customs revenue.

3. There are special reasons why this course should be adopted in examining the financial history of Natal. Its customs returns have been peculiarly affected by causes other than those which may be said to lead by a natural process to a rise or decline in receipts from this class of imposts.

4. In the report upon the Blue Book for 1862 a tabular statement was given exhibiting from 1844 to 1862 inclusive the shipping and trade of the Colony inwards and outwards, with the amount of customs dues collected. The following is a similar statement brought up to the close of 1867.

Natal.

ACCOUNT of Shipping and Trade Inwards and Outwards from 1844 to 1867 inclusive.

Years.	Shipping Inwards.	Summary for Years.	Value of Imports.	Summary for Years.	Customs Duty on Imports.	Summary for Years.	Shipping Outwards.	Summary for Years.	Value of Total Exports.	Summary for Years.
	Tons Register.		£		£		Tons Register.		£	
1844	1,831		41,141		4,041		1,858		11,387	
1845	2,781		40,592		3,416		2,441		10,400	
1846	3,528		41,958		3,511		3,678		17,143	
1847	3,226		46,981		3,803		3,226		14,377	
1848	4,166	15,532	46,204	216,876	4,705	19,476	3,761	14,964	10,867	64,174
1849	5,905		55,922		5,802		6,066		11,992	
1850	16,581		111,016		10,911		14,940		17,106	
1851	8,951		125,462		12,123		8,829		21,817	
1852	6,138		103,701		10,004		6,460		27,846	
1853	5,015	42,590	98,838	494,939	9,800	48,640	5,193	41,488	36,792	115,553
1854	8,229		122,492		10,864		7,823		43,661	
1855	3,705		86,551		8,612		4,287		52,073	
1856	5,007		102,512		10,227		5,149		56,563	
1857	8,117		184,549		14,627		7,973		82,497	
1858	11,025	36,083	172,832	668,936	15,905	60,235	10,690	35,922	100,587	335,381
1859	10,494		199,917		18,630		9,811		110,415	
1860	15,464		354,987		33,831		14,164		139,698	
1861	18,192		402,689		37,337		18,665		119,207	
1862	22,948		449,469		40,529		21,509		127,228	
1863	23,073	90,171	473,333	1,880,395	47,213	177,540	23,336	87,485	158,565	655,113
1864	31,918		591,686		59,829		32,202		220,267	
1865	37,866		455,206		42,067		37,947		210,254	
1866	26,142		263,305		29,362		25,627		203,402	
1867	26,625		269,580		35,438		26,288		225,671	

In the earlier years included in this return, that is between 1844 and 1858 inclusive, trade had been irregular and fitful, but in the succeeding years, from 1859 to 1863

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inclusive, there was an advance as steady in process as it was remarkable in extent. The value of imports increased 160 per cent., that of exports 58 per cent.

5. During this latter period of five years the population had been augmented, though not largely, by immigration from England, Holland, and Germany, and by the introduction of coolies from India for employment in the cultivation of sugar. But this increase in producing power within the Colony is quite insufficient in itself to account for the advance mentioned. The import and export returns are the exponents, not only of the internal trade of the Colony but of its commercial relations with the interior, with the Orange River Free State, and the Trans Vaal Republic, which border upon it. It is mainly to the nature of this trade and the conditions under which it has been carried on that we must look for a solution of the problem.

6. The reputation which the Colony had been gradually achieving as a producer of sugar, coffee, and wool no doubt contributed to enhance its credit, but it is to external influences brought to bear upon the Colony in one shape or another rather than to the development of its own resources that its apparent prosperity at the close of 1863 is due.

7. Nor was this period the culmination or turning point of its fortunes. In 1863 the imports into the Colony were valued at 473,333*l.*, its exports at 158,565*l.* In 1864 the former had risen to 591,686*l.*, the latter to 220,267*l.* With the next year a decline began, which as regards imports has been, with a slight fluctuation last year, progressive, and rapidly so, up to the present time. The returns for 1867 give the value of imports at 269,580*l.*, less than half the amount at which they stood only three years before in 1864, and to which they had taken five years to advance. The exports, on the other hand, after falling concurrently with the imports in 1865 and 1866, recovered themselves, and at the close of 1867 reached the highest point they have attained to since the establishment of the Colony, viz., 225,671*l.* This circumstance is in itself sufficient to cast a suspicion of unreality and fictitiousness upon the trade which resulted for a succession of years in such inflated imports.

8. The credit which the Colony enjoyed in the period embraced between the years 1859 and 1863 had enabled its government to raise loans in the English market for carrying on works for the improvement of the harbour of Port Natal, and for introducing coolie labour from India. The expenditure of these funds no doubt contributed to some extent to swell the customs revenue. But this enhanced credit was the parent of a less healthy growth. The establishment of new and competing banks in number far beyond the requirements of the Colony, and of land and loan companies of various kinds followed quickly upon it. The ease with which money was obtained from these sources produced a system of speculative trade with the interior which while it lasted poured wealth into the public treasury in the shape of duties upon excessive imports.

9. Speculation in land grew up together with and kept place with that in trade. In the earlier days of the Colony the largest portion of its Crown lands had been granted away with lavish hands and was already in the possession of persons who held them, not for cultivation but for a rise in price. This of itself was an obstacle to real progress. Circumstances arose in 1864 to add to its evil effects. Proposals were made for constructing railways in Natal, and a belief sprung up that these if carried out would enormously enhance the value of land. Speculative sales commenced, estates passed rapidly from hand to hand and at prices apparently increasing, but resting solely on credit. To support these transactions an unprecedented demand for discounts arose. The banks, in order to meet it, not only made calls upon their shareholders but attracted depositors by raising the rate of interest they allowed upon deposits from 4 to 8 per cent. A sort of paper currency of deposit of title and mortgage deeds was created, for as each sale was effected money was raised upon it, not to pay for it, but to support further speculations in land or trade. Traders, speculators, and monetary institutions were thus sinking deeper and deeper into debt, but like the excessive imposts these dealings in land, while they lasted, had the effect of pouring money into the public treasury.

10. A demand for Crown lands naturally accompanied this increase, fictitious as it was, in the price of land. The revenue from land sales, which in 1863 had undergone a decline as compared with 1862 of 1,005*l.*, exhibited in 1864 a sudden rise of 6,412*l.* But these speculative conveyances of granted lands operated to the advantage of the revenue in a more direct manner. The transfer duties, which on an average of years

may be said to have gone on increasing steadily at the rate of about 1,000*l.* per annum, showed in 1863 a sudden augmentation of 5,080*l.*, which was kept up with a further addition of 842*l.* in 1864.

11. It is clear that the state of apparent prosperity thus reached, and the rates of progress achieved thus far, could only be maintained by a continuance of the circumstances and conditions under which they were produced. It was necessary that there should be an influx of population from year to year by means of immigration from Europe, without which local consumption and the production of staples for export would languish; that the value of land should at least not diminish, and that trade with the interior should not cease to be active and remunerative.

12. With regard to the first condition I need only here remark that the stream of emigration from Europe has never been very strongly directed towards South Africa. A more rapid addition to the consuming and producing powers of the Colony would no doubt have alleviated the evils that afflicted it in the succeeding years from other causes, but it is not to any check or cessation in this respect that those evils are to be attributed.

13. At the end of 1863 and during 1864 the selling price of land was at its highest point, at from 7*s.* to 8*s.* per acre. At that time the mortgages registered in the office of the registrar of deeds amounted to about 800,000*l.* In the early part of 1865 the point was reached when this state of things could no longer be maintained.

14. Trade with the interior must always be uncertain in its character. It is a trade with a population in an unsettled state. It depends to some extent on the success of the hunter of wild animals, and it has to undergo a rivalry with the merchants of the neighbouring Cape Colony. In its natural and healthy condition this trade would merely represent the value of British manufactured goods taken in exchange for the wool, ivory, and feathers sent down from beyond the boundary of the Colony, a traffic suited to support a trading settlement rather than a powerful colony. Yet it was by ventures in this trade that the edifice of the prosperity of the Colony had been mainly built up.

15. These ventures were based upon and pushed forward by a most reckless system of credit. The cost of the goods supplied was represented on the one hand by the lands held in security for advances made by the monetary institutions of the Colony, while on the other the profits on the transactions themselves rested on no better foundation than the credit given to purchasers who were beyond the range of British law.

16. While this over-trading was at its height the functions of ordinary business were to a great extent superseded by forced auction sales. Such was the keenness of competition among the banks that separate bills passed by purchasers to auctioneers and by auctioneers to settlers for the same transactions were discounted with equal facility, the nature of the security tendered being but little regarded in either case.

17. Renewed hostilities between the boers of the Orange River Free State and the native tribes around them came in to add to the growing difficulties of the situation; the stock farmer up country became impoverished, trade even of the most legitimate kind was paralyzed, and to crown all the Courts of the Free State were closed, so that every hope of realizing, at least till a very distant day, outstanding claims was taken away.

18. The disasters which thus fell upon all who were engaged in what is called the Overberg trade were reflected upon every other interest. Unfortunately the banks and trust companies, which had either been established or whose operations had been enlarged during this season of speculative excitement, had not escaped the contagion of example. They had themselves in many instances become engaged and entangled in enterprises not within the range of their proper action, and had incurred liabilities out of all proportion to their capital. All, even those whose business was conducted most consistently with the ordinary principles of banking, fell into the fatal error of advancing money largely and lavishly on the security of lands whose selling price was measured, not by the value they had acquired from the industry of applied to them, but by sanguine anticipations of future possibilities which have not been justified by events. By a process easily traced and understood a large portion of the lands of the Colony have thus passed into the hands of companies and monetary institutions.

19. The embarrassments which about this time began to be felt by the mercantile classes in England and elsewhere influenced no doubt in some degree the commercial

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fortunes of Natal, and contributed to hasten, though they had but a remote share in producing, the catastrophe which ensued. In 1865 business came suddenly to a stand-still, capital invested in goods and buildings became unremunerative, and in many cases a total loss. A rapid fall in the value of land succeeded; money, and no longer security, was asked for. The banks, while making heavy calls upon their shareholders on the one hand, brought pressure on the other to bear upon their creditors, many of whom were also shareholders. Several of these institutions, whose capital had come to be represented almost entirely by land, and other securities of a like nature which had suddenly ceased to be saleable or capable of realization, succumbed to the blow, and something very like a general insolvency ensued.

20. The revenue of the Colony, which as I have shown had been rapidly stilted up by the artificial aid of excessive imposts and speculative land sales, fell with still greater rapidity on the sudden withdrawal of these props. The customs returns for 1864, which may be called the last year of inflation, exhibit an increase in the quantity of every article imported, and give their total value at 591,686*l.* against 473,333*l.* for 1863. The total value of exports for that year, as compared with the previous year, stands also at an advance of no less than 61,700*l.*; but, in the articles which represent commercial dealings with the interior there is already a falling off. Spirits, sugar, cotton, and other items of colonial produce appear upon these Returns as exports for the first time, or at least for the first time in any appreciable quantities. The total value for the year is made up by the substitution of these for others on which the Overberg trade was based. The customs revenue was the highest yet yielded in any year. It reached 59,829*l.* against 47,213*l.* in the previous year.

21. In 1865 and 1866 the decline was very rapid. The value of land has gone on falling from that to the present time till it has reached the nominal price of two shillings and sixpence per acre, but it is in fact scarcely saleable. The debt on the land has in the meanwhile gone on increasing till it has risen, according to an estimate that may be taken as reliable, to 1,200,000*l.* Taking the land as the basis of securities there has evidently been an enormous depreciation of assets with a vast increase of liabilities.

22. In the amounts of imports and of the duties receivable thereon, there was a corresponding diminution. The value of the former fell in 1865 to 455,206*l.*, in 1866 to 263,305*l.* The revenue from customs in the same years declined respectively to 42,067*l.* and 29,362*l.* The general revenue of the Colony fell in an equal ratio. Its aggregate amount from all sources had reached in 1864 the large total of 152,242*l.* In 1865 it had already diminished to 105,104*l.* In 1866 it stood at 92,312*l.*

23. The year 1867, the statistics of which I am more particularly called upon to review, may be said to have exhibited stagnation rather than further progression in the downward course upon which the Colony had entered at the close of 1864. The extreme point of depression seemed to have at length been reached. In the value of imports there was indeed a slight improvement. They rose from 263,305*l.* to 269,580*l.* while the duties levied thereon produced 35,438*l.* against 29,363*l.* reeeived in the previous year. This increase of yield, however, is considerably beyond the proportion which it should bear to the value of the importations. In the latter part of 1866 a law was passed subjecting many items to a higher scale of duties which came into operation in the month of July in the succeeding year. Goods in bond, and especially spirits, were taken out and put into consumption before the date of its coming into force so as to escape the augmented charges; and in the last six months of the year the returns were swelled by the imposition of the higher scale of duties. It can scarcely be said that this improvement in the customs revenue was the exponent, to any great extent, either of revived activity of trade or of increased consuming power in the population of the Colony. Had it been so, the result would have been reflected more fully upon the other branches of the pubiic income. But the whole revenue for the year from all sources, after deducting items which swell the aggregate but are mere matters of account, reached no higher sum than 95,177*l.*, which is but 2,965*l.* in excess of that of 1866.

Expenditure.

24. The annual expenditure of the Colony during the years which in their revenual aspect I have thus endeavoured to pass in review is not less worthy of careful study. In 1862 the gross expenditure had amounted to 113,237*l.*, which in the report upon the

blue book for that year is represented as being in excess of the gross revenue by a sum of 3,938*l.*, and to have been met out of the balance in the local Treasury. This was a casual excess only and there had been a like excess in the preceding year. In 1863 and 1864 the requirements of the Colony had been more than met, and the latter year closed with a balance in hand. The transactions of 1865 were the first that resulted in an actual deficiency.

25. The growth, culmination, and incipient decline of the revenue of the Colony, which have thus been traced, were accompanied, as was unavoidable, by a progressive increase of annual expenditure. It would be difficult now to draw a distinct line between those augmentations which were the natural fruit of the expansion of the Colony and those which it might have been possible, and if possible expedient, as judged by the light of subsequent events, to postpone. It is fair to say, with regard to the latter, that however burdensome upon its present resources the actual scale upon which the Government of the Colony is conducted it is by no means disproportionate to the extent and importance of the work to be done.

26. Already in 1861 the attention of the Legislature had been called to the inadequacy of the salaries paid to officers in the public service, but it was not till 1863 that any step was taken to increase them. In 1864 additions to the salaries fixed in the civil list schedule annexed to the Royal Charter were carried into effect amounting to 2,000*l.*, to other salaries to the extent of 1,413*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, and new appointments were created whose united emoluments reached 1,116*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* Thus an augmentation of 4,529*l.* 9*s.* was made to the fixed establishments of the Colony. In the same year the outlay upon services other than establishments rose from 70,633*l.*, at which it stood in 1863, to 72,601*l.* This increase was pretty equally distributed among all the services. The total excess of expenditure over that of the previous year was about 6,497*l.*

27. In 1865 further additions to the cost of establishments were made in the following proportions: new appointments, 944*l.*; increase to salaries, 276*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The services exclusive of establishments demanded an outlay of 100,800*l.*, being in excess of that of the previous year by 28,199*l.* The principal increase was in works and buildings, and in the maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. The main cause of the heavy charge for these services, which amounted together to no less a sum than 42,373*l.*, was the erection of a lighthouse on the Bluff at the Port, and the construction of the magnificent iron bridge over the Umgeni river near its mouth, which has been swept away by a disastrous flood during the present year. The seemingly prosperous condition of the revenue had induced the Government, under great pressure from without, to push on these works, and the resources of the Colony were strained to the utmost to allow of their completion. The total additional expenditure as compared with the previous year reached in 1865 29,419*l.*

28. Though the revenue of 1865 had failed by a sum of 12,058*l.* to meet these heavy expenses, again in 1866 the establishments of the Colony were enlarged. Additional salaries amounting to 1,220*l.*, were charged upon this branch of the public expenditure. This, however, was unavoidable. It was in this year that the county of Alfred, a tract of country ceded to the Crown some years before by the friendly chief Faku, was annexed to Natal. It became necessary, therefore, to make provision for placing a resident magistrate in the new district. The emoluments of this officer, and of his clerk and interpreter, together with those of a keeper and assistant keeper of the lighthouse, which was finished in the previous year, make up nearly the whole of the additions to establishments which the legislation of this year produced.

29. At this time but little more remained to be done to put all the establishments of the Colony on the footing which it was considered they ought to hold in relation to each other, and for the purpose of ensuring general efficiency of administration. But side by side with the augmentations of this year appear already some reductions. Abolitions of small offices were effected, which, though resulting in a saving of not more than 292*l.*, indicated at least that the state of the revenue had at length checked the action if it had not yet roused the alarm of the Government and the Legislature. The disbursements of the Treasury for other services fell short of those of 1865 by 17,423*l.*, but they were in excess of those for 1864 by 10,776*l.* The difference, however, was made up of the payment of arrears for certain services due for former years, chiefly for the conveyance of mails and for Colonial military allowances. The total expenditure of this year, as compared with that of the previous year, showed a decrease of 16,750*l.*

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30. In 1867 the progress of augmentations of establishments was at length entirely arrested. Offices, chiefly of a minor kind, but including that of an assistant resident magistrate, were abolished, the emoluments of which amounted together to 1,018*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The whole of this sum, however, was not saved to the public, for to allow of the extinctions of these offices re-arrangements of others had to be made, which, together with some small additional appointments in the country districts, diminished the reduction by 591*l.* 15*s.* The whole charge for establishments, whether under the Royal Charter, special laws, or annual votes, which in 1863 had stood at about 33,344*l.*, reached in 1867 about 39,196*l.*, and this, subject to casual changes, may be taken as the scale on which it is likely permanently to remain fixed for some time to come.

31. The outlay of the Government in 1867 out of general revenue on services other than establishments amounted to 72,806*l.* 14*s.* Of this 8,661*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* was for public works, been less by 17,451*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* than the expenditure under that head in 1866. But to this sum of 8,661*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* should be added a further sum of 6,325*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* charged to a loan for public works, making together 14,986*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* as the amount actually disbursed for buildings and roads in 1867, which is still less by 11,125*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* than what was appropriated to those purposes in the previous year. The whole expenditure of this year was less by 7,739*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* than that of 1866.

32. The example of the Cape Colony, which possesses an admirable force of mounted police organized on a peculiar footing, led the government of Natal in 1863, under great pressure from the Legislature, to form a like body on a small scale in this Colony. In the years under review the maintenance of this force, which was soon found to be more burdensome than useful, added to the expenditure of the Colony in the following proportions:—In 1863, 4,500*l.*; in 1864, 3,564*l.*; in 1865, 2,322*l.*; and in 1866, 1,865*l.* The corps was gradually disbanded, and by the end of 1866 it had dwindled from 30 to 6 men. In 1867 it only entailed upon the revenue a charge of 964*l.*

33. In the year 1865 a heavy and unforeseen expense was thrown upon the Colony in connexion with the disturbed state of its north-western border, where hostilities were on foot between the Basuto nation and the Orange River Free State. As an incident in this war a raid was made into Natal by a Basuto chief, named Letsoane, during which two or three kafirs were killed, one white man wounded, and a considerable number of cattle and horses carried off. A force, consisting of a troop of the Cape Mounted Rifles, four troops of local volunteer cavalry, and a small body of infantry, together with 2,000 armed Zulus, under the orders of the Secretary for Native Affairs, proceeded to the frontier. Of these the Rifles and about 1,000 Zulus, and subsequently the Natal mounted police, remained there for about 12 months. The cost of this expedition and demonstration amounted in the aggregate to about 10,000*l.* It was spread over the years 1865, 1866, and 1867, and under the name of special payments swelled the disbursements of those years by 7,474*l.*, 2,249*l.*, and 1,127*l.* respectively.

34. In these years, too, the sum paid as interest upon the loan raised upon debentures for prosecuting the harbour works of Port Natal and to the sinking fund for its redemption rose from 9,000*l.*, at which it stood in 1863, to 14,000*l.* in 1867; that in connexion with the loan for the introduction of coolies from 3,991*l.* in 1866 to 5,941*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* in 1867.

35. The close of the year 1867 found the Colony burdened, as a result of all these transactions extending over the years which I have passed in review, with an unfunded debt of 64,037*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* This aggregate is thus made up.

Deficit of 1865	- - - -	£12,058 8*s.* 5*d.*
„ 1866	- - - -	£25,396 17*s.* 4*d.*
„ 1867	- - - -	£26,582 7*s.* 2*d.*

In a special session of the Legislature in the last months of 1866 a law was passed for raising a loan of 100,000*l.* for the construction of public works. A portion of this floating debt, amounting to 30,500*l.*, was by a subsequent amendment of that law in 1867 charged to the monies to be raised under it. This would have reduced the unfunded debt to 33,537*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* But means have not yet been provided by the Legislature for putting this law into operation, and the loan, therefore, remains at present unnegotiated.

36. These successive deficits have been met by borrowing temporarily from the Harbour Works and Immigration Funds, so that the debt is in fact one due by general

to special revenue. But these funds have already been so far exhausted by this process that the execution of the purposes to which they are specially applicable must necessarily languish until a progressive and systematic repayment of the amounts drawn from them comes into operation.

37. What is very remarkable in the financial history of these years is, that while this increase of outlay was going on,—an increase in its nature more or less inevitable in all countries, especially young and growing countries, where the province of administration is constantly undergoing enlargement,—up to the very close of 1866 no attempt was made to multiply the sources of the public income. The elasticity of the existing revenue was looked to as sufficient for all purposes and all eventualities, and, as I have endeavoured to show, the circumstances of the time up to a certain date were such as to favour, and even produce this impression. The Legislation of the special session of 1866 did but little towards providing fresh resources. Increased duties upon failing imports, at a time when on the one hand local productions were increasing and on the other personal expenditure was diminishing, while the trade with the interior was at a stand still, were little likely to afford much assistance. Recourse to the obvious expedient of direct taxation, from which the white population of the Colony, except that portion of it which dwells in its two corporate towns and is subject to local rating, has hitherto been free, was in that session, if not entirely repudiated and discarded, at least postponed.

38. Nor did the succeeding session of 1867 produce other results. It was now more than ever to be regretted that the revenue had not been strengthened concurrently with the fresh burdens which were laid upon it, because, when at length its expansiveness ceased to be artificially stimulated, all classes of the community suffered more or less from the collapse which ensued, and there was naturally a great disinclination to impose fresh taxation upon them. An idea was eagerly caught at that all the steps which had been taken could be and ought to be retraced, that the amount of revenue realized at a certain date should be taken arbitrarily as that which the colony could afford to raise, and that the expenditure of the Government should be measured by this standard and not by the current exigencies of the day.

Civil Establishments.

39. It is probable that, however inadequate the footing on which the civil establishment of the Colony stood before it was raised in the manner and by the process I have pointed out, but little would have been done to improve it if the precarious nature of the prosperity which was the occasion of its being dealt with had not so thoroughly escaped notice at the time. It may yet become necessary and politic to take every fair opportunity of reducing it again in any particulars in which its augmentation may have been to any extent premature, or such as could have borne postponement. But, speaking generally, the scale on which it is placed is not such as to justify the assertion that the costly nature of its government is pressing with undue weight upon the resources of the Colony, that is, with a weight which the circumstances of the case do not call for.

40. The Colony of Natal comprises an area of upward of 16,000 square miles. Its population of European descent numbers about 17,000 souls; its Coolie and Kafir population upwards of 250,000. About 10,000 of its white inhabitants may be said to be concentrated in the boroughs of Pietermaritzburg and Durban; the rest are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land. Of the native population there is no concentration whatever; they live in locations, according to their tribes, which it has been the policy of the Government to allot to them in all parts and divisions of the country without exception. It is clear that under these conditions the machinery of administration must be wanting in that compactness which would make its working cheap and simple. Executive control over collections and disbursements of public money, and in the general management of the country, and the administration of civil and criminal justice in their higher and lower branches, become in such circumstances comparatively costly because complicated. Nor should it be overlooked that, with the exception of the incorporation of the two towns, no territorial organization whatever for local purposes has yet been created, so that the Government of the Colony is in every sense of the word centralized.

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41. The following is an enumeration of the principal offices by means of which the affairs of the colony are conducted. Against each is placed the amount of remuneration attached to the discharge of its duties.

Civil.

	£
The Lieutenant Governor	2,500
The Colonial Secretary	800
The Treasurer	600
The Attorney General	700
The Secretary for Native Affairs	700
The Surveyor General	500
The Civil Engineer	500
The Auditor	400
The Inspector of Education	400
The Registrar of Deeds	350
The Postmaster	350
The Port Officer	350

Judicial.

	£
The Chief Justice	900
The 1st Puisne Judge	800
The 2d Puisne Judge	800
The Sheriff	250
Eleven resident Magistrates, 2 at 350*l.* each and 9 at 300*l.*	3,400

It cannot be said that the emoluments enjoyed by these officers are out of proportion to the extent and importance of the work they do or the responsibilities they bear in their respective spheres of duty, or that they are in excess of what is necessary to secure to the Colony a succession of able and efficient public servants.

42. The list of officers given in the blue book, after deducting those I have mentioned and the few clergymen and ministers of different denominations who receive stipends from the Colonial Treasury, contains no less than 66 names. Many of these are the junior officers and clerical assistants of the principal departments, civil and judicial, but the larger number of them is scattered far and wide about the country in receipt of small salaries for various Government purposes, and in the exercise of functions which are highly important in the aggregate. The casual expenditure which follows upon this unavoidable diffusiveness of action, expenditure in its nature uncertain and but little to be controlled, absorbs from year to year an ever increasing portion of the ways and means of the Colony.

Public Works.

43. If the hand of Government must be thus wide stretched and far-reaching, it becomes imperative that the communication between the different parts of the Colony should be good, and be unobstructed at all seasons, and that postal intercourse should be regularly and uninterruptedly maintained. For purposes of transport also, both from and to the interior, this is of vital importance. The development of trade with the Free States across the border, unhealthy as it was in its rapidity and inflation, contributed to swell the requirements of the Colony in this respect. With no local funds or local organization for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of roads and bridges, much of the overwhelming expenditure of the years I have been reviewing, which has embarrassed the general finances of the Colony, is referable to the pressure of these necessities.

44. In the following Return the Public Works of the Colony which have been undertaken during these years have been divided under four heads; the maintenance and improvements of roads and bridges, the erection of new bridges, the construction of other public buildings, and the execution of the harbour works of Port Natal.

Year.	Maintenance of and Improvements of Roads, Streets, and Bridges.	New Bridges.	Other Public Buildings.	Expenditure of Harbour Works and Railway to Umgeni Quarry for conveyance of Stone for Works.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863	6,942 6 11	7,611 7 4	5,431 0 4	26,079 1 9
1864	6,806 19 4	6,564 8 7	6,018 11 10	3,346 7 8
1865	11,055 9 8	7,878 13 0	13,857 3 7	2,063 16 8
1866	6,590 8 7	4,805 6 5	10,375 4 1	15,297 14 10
1867	5,858 17 8	452 8 11	5,901 11 0	9,001 14 3

45. The process of road making in Natal is comparatively easy and inexpensive. It is only in places that much constructive skill and labour is requisite. The ox waggon, the ordinary means of conveyance and transport in South Africa, may be said to be to a certain extent its own road maker. It leaves its track along the undulating grassy plains of the country, and the efforts of the road surveyor have to be mainly devoted to regulating the direction and levelling and improving the surface of these so called natural roads. Hardening and metalling are as yet but partially in use; but the country rises in steps, as it were, and at the points of ascent the ingenuity of the engineer has to be called into play, and more heavy and expensive work performed.

46. The country is intersected by a great number of rivers, many of them wide and deep as well as rapid, and all subject to floods. Easy intercommunication is essentially dependent upon every facility being afforded, and every obstruction removed, to the passage of these rivers at all seasons of the year. Hence the great outlay that has taken place on the erection and repairs of bridges, punts, and ferries, and on the improvement of drifts or fords, the details of which are shown in the following statements.

Construction and Repair of Roads throughout the Colony.

Year.	£ s. d.
1863	6,644 0 5
1864	6,712 15 7
1865	10,420 3 11
1866	6,169 9 11
1867	5,501 19 1

Construction and Repairs of small Bridges and Culverts throughout the Colony.

Year.	£ s. d.
1863	298 6 6
1864	94 3 9
1865	635 5 9
1866	420 18 8
1867	356 18 7

New Bridges and Punts.

Queen's Bridge, Umgeni.

Estimated cost, 14,162*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

	£	s.	d.
1862 -	5,960	13	4
1863 -	4,401	7	1
1864 -	4,939	8	6
1865 -	135	6	0
	15,437	4	11
Deduct, given by Corporation of Durban	400	0	0
	15,037	4	1

Liversage's Bridge, Umgeni.

Estimated cost, 3,710*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1862 -	650	19	7
1863 -	4,905	18	10
1864 -	850	2	5
	4,407	0	10

Bushman's River Bridge.

Estimated cost, 3,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	2,484	6	3
1866 -	2,089	8	11
	4,573	15	2

Mooi River Bridge.

Estimated cost, 3,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	1,803	12	1
1866 -	1,320	9	3
	3,124	1	4

Thorny Bush Bridge.

Estimated cost, 800*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1862 -	572	7	11
1863 -	304	1	5
	876	9	4

Illovo Bridge.

Estimated cost, 310*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1864 -	50	0	0
1865 -	200	0	0
	250	0	0

Umlaas Bridge.

Estimated cost, 1,370*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	407	0	0
1866 -	906	3	6
	1,313	3	6

Bridge, Ockert's Spruit.

Estimated cost, 198*l.* 2*s.*

	£	s.	d.
1866 -	152	11	1

Sea Cow, Lake Bridge.

Estimated cost, 246*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	176	7	5

and also 50*l.* in addition, given by inhabitants towards its construction.

Umbilo Bridge.

Estimated cost, 500*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	50	0	0

Three Bridges over Umvoti River.

Estimated cost, 2,700*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	2,537	1	6

Great Umhlanga Bridge.

Estimated cost, 500*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	66	14	7

Lion's River Bridge.

Estimated cost, 500*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	162	13	4

Punt Tugela.

Cost as shown in Blue Book.

	£	s.	d.
1864 -	724	7	8
1865 -	646	13	2
1866 -	161	6	3
	1,532	7	1

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	92	1	10

paid for a timber punt over Tugela River at another point than above.

Little Umhlanga Bridge.

Estimated cost, 280*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	80	19	2

47. But if it was to be expected under such circumstances that works of the nature of these would be pushed on even beyond the verge of prudence the needs of the Colony in other respects were not the less pressing. The Colony had in fact still to house itself. Suitable courts for the administration of justice, both in its higher and inferior branches, had to be erected; adequate office accommodation had to be found for the various departments of the Government, the business of which was growing rapidly, and a sufficiently commodious residence had still to be provided for the Governor of the Colony. Very much had to be done, and much still remains to be done, to supply the country with properly constructed gaols and district prisons in which to institute and maintain a penal discipline for the discouragement of crime. Considerable progress was made in these years in meeting these and similar wants of minor importance, but though the principal works, with one or two exceptions, are still incomplete, the strain upon the resources of the Colony has been proportionally severe. What has been effected, and at what cost, is shown in detail in the following return.

Return of Public Works.

The Gaol, Pietermaritzburg.

Estimated cost, 6,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	221	7	4
1864 -	402	5	6
	623	12	10

The Gaol, Durban.

Estimated cost, 13,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1864 -	200	0	0
1865 -	2,981	5	3
1866 -	2,140	6	2
1867 -	760	17	6
	6,082	8	11

Unkomas Prison.

Estimated cost, 900*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	170	16	8
1864 -	242	15	3
1865 -	515	10	9
	929	2	8

Tugela Prison.

Estimated cost, 900*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	638	4	11
1864 -	261	15	1
	900	0	0

Inanda Prison.

Estimated cost, 850*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	274	1	8

Richmond Lockup.

Estimated cost, 1,085*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	419	19	10

Grey Town, Prison Enlargement.

Estimated cost, 200*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	200	0	0

Tool Depôt, Colonial Engineer.

Estimated cost, 250*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	259	0	0

Government School House, Pietermaritzburg.

Estimated cost, 553*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	14	7	7
1864 -	520	19	9
	535	7	4
1865 -	339	12	5

To render building available for Government Offices.

Ladysmith Powder Magazine.

Estimated cost, 210*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	150	15	6

Signal House, Bluff, additions to.

	£	s.	d.
1866 -	50	0	0
1867 -	243	12	3
	293	12	3

Grey Town, Powder Magazine.

Estimated cost, 110*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1864 -	108	0	0

Grey Town, Gaolers and Additional Prison Room.

Estimated cost, 120*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	130	0	0

Repairs to Public Buildings.

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	570	17	8
1864 -	632	8	11
1865 -	771	0	11
1866 -	454	0	5
1867 -	511	4	1
	2,939	12	0

Pietermaritzburgh Gallows.

Estimated cost, 86*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	86	0	0

Lighthouse, Bluff.

Estimated cost, 6,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	2,625	13	3
1866 -	3,355	0	0
1867 -	150	5	0
	6,130	18	3

Return of Public Works—cont.

Maintaining and Repairs to Wharves and Spit.

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	44	12	0
1864 -	201	17	8
1865 -	399	17	8
1866 -	24	0	0
1867 -	82	10	3
	752	17	7

Unkomas Harbour, Improvement to.

Estimated cost, 4,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	2,302	14	10
1864 -	1,536	13	0
1865 -	335	0	8
	4,174	8	6

Repairs to Military Posts, Krans Kop, &c.

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	434	9	8
1664 -	1,452	16	8
1865 -	298	17	7
1866 -	12	7	0
1867 -	2	5	0
	2,200	15	11

Ladysmith Water Course.

Estimated cost, 1700*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1864 -	459	0	0
1865 -	246	6	6
1866 -	107	9	0
1867 -	77	8	0
	890	3	6

Durban, Public Buildings.

Estimated cost, 6,120*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	3,095	0	5
1866 -	3,513	11	9
1867 -	126	6	9
	6,734	18	11

Coolie Barracks, repairs to.

Estimated cost, 286*l.* 10*s.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	286	10	0

Durban, Gaoler's Quarters.

Estimated cost, 331*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

	£	s.	d.
1866 -	50	0	0
1867 -	215	9	9
	265	9	9

Lunatic Asylum, Temporary.

Estimated cost, 1,085*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	340	8	8

Government House, Repairs and additions to.

Estimated cost, 1,600*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	458	5	6

New Court House, P. M. Burg.

Estimated cost, 10,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	378	9	6
1866 -	328	4	8
1867 -	2,567	5	3
	3,273	19	5

Additions to Colonial Engineer's Store, Durban, for Coolie Office.

Estimated cost, 40*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	40	0	0

Richmond, Magistrates Office.

Estimated cost, 600*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	100	0	0

Verulam Gaol, additions to.

Estimated cost, 250*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	50	0	0

Mealie Kiln, P. M. Burg.

Estimated cost, 40*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	50	13	0

Ladysmith Gaol Kitchen.

Estimated cost, 70*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1863 -	60	12	6

Durban Powder Magazine.

Estimated cost, 400*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1867 -	125	0	0

Portable Crane.

Estimated cost, 100*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	106	18	0

Victoria Railway Survey.

Estimated cost, 450*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	449	19	9
1866 -	53	15	1
	503	14	10

Custom House alterations.

Estimated cost, 752*l.* 10*s.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	633	1	1

Lower Uncomas Powder Magazine.

Estimated cost, 120*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	90	10	0

Weenen Water Course.

Estimated cost, 40*l.*

	£	s.	d.
1865 -	40	0	0

48. The work of the most extended public usefulness which was commenced and finished during this time is the lighthouse, which has been erected on the bluff at the entrance of the harbour of Port Natal. It consists of an iron tower 80 feet in height, situated on a commanding eminence, and is visible at sea in clear weather from a distance of 24 miles. It shows a revolving light, which attains its greatest brilliancy once in every minute. The foundation stone of this edifice was laid on the 22d November 1864, and it was lighted for the first time on the 23d January 1867. It cost the Colony in round numbers about 6,000*l.*, and its maintenance entails an annual expenditure of about 450*l.*

Harbour Works.

49. The long and expensive land carriage required to transport to Durban the sugar and other produce of the Lower Unkomanzi and adjacent districts lying to the southward of the Unkomanzi River induced some of the planters to attempt the establishment of a port at the mouth of that river, whence communication with Durban could be maintained by small vessels. The Unkomanzi River expands near its mouth into a fine sheet of water from 800 to 1,200 feet in width, and having a depth of water varying from 4 to 6 feet at low water spring tides, and from 10 to 12 feet at high water springs. This sheet of water offered an excellent natural harbour for small craft, but the entrance to it was narrow and winding, and barred at its outlet by a sandbank, over which the depth of water varied from 2 or 3 up to 6 feet at top of springs. A small screw steamer, called the "Natalie," was brought out from England by private enterprise in 1861, for the purpose of plying between Durban and the Unkomanzi, and she made several successful trips, crossing the Unkomanzi bar without accident. This vessel was, however, not well adapted for crossing a rough bar and navigating a narrow and tortuous channel, and at length, having attempted to run out of the river at an unfavourable time and with a falling tide, she was wrecked on a sand spit, and although afterwards got off she was never used again in connexion with the Unkomanzi, but was converted into a sailing vessel and employed for other purposes.

50. In the meantime strong representations were made to the Government, by those interested, of the great benefit that would be conferred upon the Southern Coast Districts by improving the entrance of this river, and the civil engineer of the Colony was

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accordingly instructed to report upon the subject. That officer submitted a scheme for straightening and deepening the channel and scouring the bar, sufficiently to admit of its its being crossed in safety by vessels drawing not more than five feet of water, at an estimated cost of 4,000*l.* His plan consisting chiefly of the construction of a training wall of rubble masonry on the south side of the embouchure of the river, and the removal by blasting of some of the rocks which interrupted the channel. The works were commenced in September 1862 and finished in 1864, at a total cost of 4,705*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

51. These works have had the desired effect of straightening and deepening the channel in the outlet of the river, and of increasing and regulating the depth of water over the bar. Since the works were completed a small sailing vessel made one or two trips from Durban to the Unkomanzi and back, and on each occasion sailed over the bar; but with this exception no advantage has been taken of the improvements effected. A company was got up about the time of the completion of the works for the purpose of purchasing and bringing out a steam vessel specially adapted for crossing the Unkomanzi bar, but although it was well known that from 5 to 5½ feet was the greatest draught of water that such a vessel should have with full cargo on board, yet it was found when the steamer arrived in November 1865 that she drew 9 feet 6 inches when laden, and that consequently she was quite unsuited for the purpose for which she was professedly procured. Disputes arose amongst the shareholders, and she was finally sent down to the Cape and there sold. Little use has therefore been made of the Unkomanzi Harbour, notwithstanding the amount which has been expended upon it, and as the road southwards from Durban has been much improved within the last few years, and the cost of transport has materially decreased, there is not much likelihood of this harbour being again put to much use unless the discovery of valuable minerals in the neighbourhood should bring it into requisition, or the cultivation of sugar be very considerably increased.

52. Of the unfinished works in progress those which have been undertaken and are being carried on for the improvement of the harbour of Port Natal are of the most vital importance of any to the future development of the natural capabilities of the Colony. A very full report by the colonial engineer upon these works was appended to the Blue Book for 1866, together with a plan of the harbour, showing the various schemes which had been proposed, and partially executed, for increasing the depth of water over the bar which impedes its entrance. The plan at length definitively adopted, and now being carried out with modifications, was designed by Captain Vetch, R.E., of the Harbour Department of the Admiralty, before whom, however, sufficiently correct data of the natural and engineering peculiarities of the locality do not appear to have been laid. Hence the necessity for the modifications introduced by the civil engineer of the Colony, both as regards the design itself and the method of construction. The special object now being aimed at is to close up permanently one channel through which the ebb tide sets, and so to throw the whole scour upon the bar, and thus increase and render more regular the depth of water upon it. From the year 1861, when these works were commenced, up to the end of 1867, the total sum expended upon them amounted to 125,005*l.*

53. If the object for which those works are undertaken were simply to render the harbour more easily accessible to vessels of the ordinary tonnage as at present employed in taking away the exportable produce of the Colony, and bringing to it what it requires of foreign produce for its consumption, it is probable that the amount originally destined for their execution might very nearly suffice for the purpose; but a much larger question than this is involved in the improvement of this harbour,—it is nothing less than its adaptation as a coaling station for large passenger vessels and for the ships of Her Majesty's Navy.

Geological Survey.

54. The existence of coal in Natal has long been known. In the neighbourhood of the places where it is found it is extensively used for domestic purposes, and for like uses it finds its way in small quantities to Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Wood being scarce in the Colony it is an important product even for these purposes. Unfortunately it is found in that portion of the country which is most distant from the sea-board, and its transport from thence is slow, uncertain, and expensive. In 1864 some abortive endeavours were made to procure the construction of railways, and the opening up of these coal fields was among the objects proposed to be secured thereby. In 1867, as a preliminary to a more thorough geological and mineralogical survey of the locality and

of the Colony generally, an investigation into the extent of the coal field was commenced, and in the present year trials have been made of the value of Natal coal as compared with English coal for navigation purposes. A report upon these trials made by the surveyor general and civil engineer of the colony is annexed. These officers give it as their opinion that the results of their experiments shown in the tabular statement appended to their report are very satisfactory as to the value of certain Natal coals for steam purposes when selected with care. A subsequent trial on board Her Majesty's ship "Hydra" led the commander and engineer of that vessel to express like views. A copy of the remarks of the engineer in charge upon the quality of these coals is added to the local report.

55. It has been suggested by those who are most competent to give advice upon the subject that a thoroughly efficient mining engineer should be sent out from England, who should report upon the amount and quality of the coal, upon the cost of its extraction, and upon that of its transport to the port by railways which have yet to be made. The condition of the finances of the Colony must cause delay in carrying out this proposition, but this will be the less to be regretted if to these questions is added, when they come to be considered, the further one of the extension which it will be necessary to give to the Port Natal Harbour Works as at present conducted, so as to render the port available as a coaling station. The solution of the two former questions will produce little practical result if the last be left undetermined. The easy and cheap extraction and transport to Durban of coal from the interior would only lead to its accumulation in the warehouses and on the wharves of the town if the harbour remains inaccessible to ships of the large tonnage now in vogue for carrying passengers and for war purposes. With such a sea as that which runs along the coasts of this portion of South Africa, coaling in the open roadstead, outside the bar, could not be effected.

Public Debt.

56. The expense of the improvement of the harbour of Port Natal has not been defrayed out of current yearly revenue. In 1860 a law was passed authorizing the negotiation of a loan of 163,000*l.* for this purpose, and in that year debentures to the extent of 50,000*l.* as a first instalment were issued; in 1862 a further instalment of 50,000*l.* was raised; in 1865 a third instalment of 10,000*l.*; in 1867 the negotiation of the remainder amounting to 53,000*l.* was effected. This debt bears interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and is repayable in twenty-three years from the date of each instalment. Including the sinking fund, for its redemption, this loan now entails upon the Colony a yearly payment out of general revenue of upwards of 14,000*l.*

57. The Colony has also raised a loan by debentures of 100,000*l.* for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the introduction of immigrant labour from India. This loan was authorized by a law passed in 1864, and it was taken up in two instalments of 50,000*l.* each. A separate measure, passed at the same time, provided for the partition in the proportions of two thirds and one third between the employers of coolies, and the general revenue of the yearly amount payable as interest upon the loan, and towards the sinking fund for its redemption. It was contemplated that under the provisions of these laws the employer would, by yearly instalments, pay a sum of 15*l.*, the general revenue a sum of 7*l.* 10*s.* for each coolie introduced, making together 22*l.* 10*s.*, which being in excess of the actual cost of introduction, inclusive of all contingencies, would leave at the end of 31 years, when the loan would be paid off, a large amount in hand available for future operations. This calculation was based upon the assumption that during these 31 years 2,000 coolies would be annually introduced into the Colony. The progressive accumulation from year to year of the number of indentured immigrants, and consequently of the instalments of passage money and of the quota from general revenue to be received, was to lead to the formation of an eventual surplus estimated at no less a sum than 116,500*l.*

58. But the condition on which this result depended was not fulfilled. It was perhaps incapable under any circumstances of being fulfilled with the regularity required. Before the second instalment of the loan was negotiated the planters on the coast, who are the principal employers of coolie labour, began to feel the effects of the commercial stagnation and depression the general features of which have been described in the early part of this Report. The advances upon which many of these planters were working became gradually less and less obtainable, and among other more disastrous results a cessation of the demand for coolies ensued. Since the month of July 1866 none have been received. The actual payments into what is called the coolie fund,

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on account of passages of coolies from India to Natal in these years, 1865, 1866, and 1867, have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1865.						
From 16th May 1865 to 31st December 1865:						
Planters paid on 313 coolies	1,825	18	3			
Charged to general revenue	912	19	1			
				2,738	17	4
1866.						
Planters paid on 866 coolies	2,500	10	0			
Charged to general revenue	1,250	5	0			
				3,750	15	0
1867.						
Planters paid on 838 coolies	2,312	10	0			
Charged to general revenue	1,156	5	0			
				3,468	15	0
				9,958	7	4

The interest on coolie loan debentures and payments into the sinking fund have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount paid in 1865	Nil.*		
„ „ 1866	4,000	0	0
„ „ 1867	6,000	0	0
	10,000	0	0

The actual disbursements of the fund for passage money, salary, &c., of agents and establishments, supply of coolie stores, &c., during the years 1865, 1866, and 1867, have been as under:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1865.						
In the Colony	4,653	9	8			
In England	25	11	0			
In India	3,481	13	6			
				8,160	14	2
1866.						
In the Colony	2,479	18	0			
In England	7,101	1	5			
In India	2,574	16	1¾			
				12,155	15	6¾
1867.						
In the Colony	1,294	6	10			
In England	647	10	7			
India	490	18	2¼			
				2,432	15	7¼
Total				22,749	5	4

Thus far therefore the general revenues of the Colony, which are primarily responsible to the holders of these debentures, have been materially assisted in keeping down the interest thereon by the contributions of the employers of this description of labour, but on the one hand neither has the loan been expended in such a way and to such an extent as to lead to the accumulations anticipated, nor on the other has any surplus arising from the transactions of these years been realized, or utilized for the purposes of the coolie fund by actual investment.

* First instalment of loan not having been raised till December 1865.

59. The second instalment of this loan, the application of which to its proper object became suspended by the failure of the demand for coolies, was by a temporary arrangement substituted for a portion of a further loan of 100,000*l.* which by a law passed in 1866 the government of the Colony was authorized to raise for the execution of public works. This loan has therefore not yet been negotiated, but the interest upon the second half of the coolie loan has been thus thrown entirely upon general revenue, which is subjected thereby to a yearly charge of 4,000*l.* It has been proposed to effect a consolidation of all these loans, and the possibility and means of doing so are now under consideration.

Local Revenues.

60. The financial statistics of the corporations of the boroughs of Pietermaritzburg and Durban for the five years under review, as extracted from the blue books for these years, give the following results :—

Borough of Pietermaritzburg.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1863	17,870	18,166
1864	11,742	11,742
1865	6,463	14,205
1866	6,576	11,412
1867	9,186	9,134

Borough of Durban.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1863	10,336	12,718
1864	18,321	17,896
1865	26,132	27,564
1866	6,829	30,234
1867	8,348	13,784

61. The city of Pietermaritzburg and the town of Durban were constituted boroughs under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1854, and were proclaimed as such on the 15th of May of that year, having then respectively, as required by the law, a population amounting to one thousand souls. The government conveyed lands to each of them as an endowment to Pietermaritzburg, 26,088 acres, to Durban 6,096 acres. During the same five years sales of land were made by each, which realized the following sums, omitting fractions.

	Pietermaritzburg.	Durban.
	£	£
1863	5,493	4,946
1864	3,037	11,104
1865	1,199	4,778
1866	376	332
1867	467	836

The rise and fall in the value of, and demand for, land, already adverted to, are illustrated by these figures. By private laws passed in 1864 the corporate council of the two boroughs were authorized to raise loans in the Colony or elsewhere to the extent of 50,000*l.* each. The returns given in the Blue Books state the amount of debentures sold under these laws up to the end of 1867 as under.

	Pietermaritzburg.	Durban.
	£	£
1864	—	1,500
1865	1,000	14,557
1866	4,050	—
1867	3,813	—

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These boroughs are completely self-governed. There is no official element whatever in the composition of the municipal bodies by which their affairs are administered. They have not on that account been able to ward off or escape from the pressure which, as has been shown, has affected in various degrees and ways the general government of the Colony and every interest in it.

Political Franchise, &c.

62. The constitution of the Colony itself is peculiar in respect to the amount of self-government enjoyed. Its legislation is carried on in a single chamber, consisting of four nominee and twelve elective members. This arrangement is eminently transitional in its nature. It holds an intermediate place between the system on which the government of Crown colonies is conducted and the government by party which prevails in the larger colonial dependencies of the Empire. It fails in the point in which those two systems, however widely different in other respects, resemble each other. It is a point which is essential to good government. In them responsibility and power go together. Like responsibilities attach to the executive of a Crown colony, of a colony where there is party government, and of one organized as Natal is. But in the first the executive can carry its measures by the legislative majority it commands; in the second it is itself the voice of the majority. In Natal responsibility rests with the Governor, who exercises it through the channel of the four nominee members of its legislature, but power rests with the twelve elected members who represent the country. The system is better suited to fine than to foul weather. In good times the machine works smoothly enough. Politics being a science of compromises, government and representatives meet half way and play into each other's hands. But when hard times come and difficulties arise, and greater responsibilities than ever fall upon the executive, the tendency then is, and must be, for the representatives to combine in opposition, and to leave the executive to bear its responsibilities as it best may. The evil of this is twofold. The government in times of real or apparent prosperity is made amenable to pressure, which enhances in its results the embarrassments to be dealt with when altered circumstances supervene; and the co-operation, without which it is powerless to deal with them, is withdrawn at the moment when it is most needed. As the population of the Colony increases, and its interests become more numerous and varied, it will pass beyond this phase of its political history, and a remedy to these evils may then be found in a more extended application of the principles of representative institutions. In the meantime the task of the executive will be one of unusual complication.

Immigration.

63. Efforts have not been wanting to hasten forward the time when it may be possible as well as expedient to effect this extension. It has been stated in an earlier part of this report that immigration from Europe had augmented the population of the Colony to some extent in the years from 1859 to 1863 inclusive. In 1866 recourse was had to this means of developing its resources in a systematic manner. A very competent agent was sent home, and he and the local government had the benefit of the advice of Her Majesty's Land and Emigration Commissioners in England in devising and carrying out a system of selected and assisted immigration which was ultimately sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The main features of the scheme as now in operation are the following. Land grants are offered to immigrants on the subjoined scale and conditions: to a settler with a capital of 500*l.*, or an annuity of 50*l.* a year, 200 acres with a reserve of 400 acres for future purchase; to a settler with a capital of 250*l.*, 100 acres, with a reserve of 200 acres for future purchase; to a settler with a capital of 100*l.*, 50 acres, with a reserve of 100 acres for future purchase. The reserve in each case is open for purchase at any time within five years at 5*s.* per acre. To a settler with less than 100*l.* of capital, but with means to support himself and family till he can raise a crop, a grant of 50 acres is offered without a reserve purchase. Coast lands, as being more valuable, are offered at the rate of one half the quantity of land without any reserve for purchase for each class of capitalists. Legal titles to all allotments will be issued after two years on proof of continuons occupation of the land during eight months of each year. Assistance in the way of rations, loan of implements, waggons, and cattle is given to the extent of the value of 10*l.* to each settler, if he requires it. Pasturage licences for lands are also issued. In the case of those which are near to townships or settlements these licences are terminable by government at the end of each year, but holders of more remote pastoral runs are allowed a pre-emptive right over not less than their whole runs up to the 1st January 1870, at the price of 5*s.* per acre. A contribution of 5*l.*

towards both cabin and steerage passages is also made by the local government under certain conditions as to the price charged by shippers for each whole passage.

64. Up to the close of 1867 the outlay connected with this scheme had amounted to 3,721*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, inclusive of agent's salary and fees, office charges, advertising and travelling, and passages and settlement of immigrants. The number of statute adults sent out stood at that time at 71, 26 grants of 200 acres each had been made, and 30 of 50 acres. The numbers have considerably increased in the current year. A fair share of the emigration which annually leaves the shores of England may now be said to have been secured to Natal by the agent's exertions, and it is satisfactory to know that those who have already become settlers in it are generally contented with their position and prospects. But it is to be feared that the financial exigencies of the Colony may for the present prevent the agent from giving to his operations the full extension of which they are capable. So much of the soil of Natal is now in the hands of companies, speculators, and other absent or unimproving proprietors, that it is of great importance to its welfare and progress that the Crown lands still remaining at the disposal of the government should be allotted with as little delay as possible in such a manner as to ensure their continuous occupation and culture.

Education.

65. The future of the Colony, in its political and social as well as its industrial aspect, will be influenced as much by the training and teaching of the generations which grow up within it as by the quantity and quality of the accessions to its population from extraneous sources. It will be interesting therefore to examine what has been done in this respect during the period under review.

66. The public schools in operation in Natal which come under the supervision of the superintendent of education were of two sorts in the year 1863, as they continue to be now, viz., schools maintained and managed wholly by government and schools receiving grants in aid from government on certain conditions. Of the former there were then three. A high school at Pietermaritzburg and two primary government schools, situated one in Pietermaritzburg and the other in Durban. To these was added in 1866 a high school in the town of Durban. The assisted schools were divided at that time into infant schools receiving a government grant of 50*l.* per annum, district boarding schools receiving a grant of 80*l.*, and five classes of so called public schools receiving grants varying from 70*l.* to 16*l.* per annum. To these were added itinerant teachers receiving grants of 16*l.* per annum. There were in number two infant schools, one district boarding school, three public schools of the 1st class with 70*l.* per annum each, three of the 2d class with 50*l.* per annum each, fourteen of the 3d class with 36*l.* per annum each, eight of the 4th class with 25*l.* per annum each, and two of the 5th class with 16*l.* per annum each, while sixteen itinerant teachers were receiving grants of 16*l.* per annum each. The number of pupils on the books of the government and assisted schools was 789 boys and 583 girls, in all 1371. The total cost to the government of both divisions of the schools in that year was, after deducting the amounts received for fees, subscriptions, and sales of books, 3,051*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

67. The subjoined tabular statement exhibits the progressive changes which have taken place in all these particulars in the subsequent years.

	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
Government Schools - -	3	3	4	4
District Boarding Schools, 80*l.* per annum - - -	1	2	2	2
Public Schools, 1st class, 70*l.* per annum - - -	3	4	4	4
Public Schools, 2d class, 50*l.* per annum - - -	8	10	11	11
Public Schools, 3d class, 36*l.* per annum - - -	13	12	10	12
Public Schools, 4th class, 25*l.* per annum - - -	8	6	6	7
Public Schools, 5th class, 16*l.* per annum - - -	6	5	7	4
Itinerant Teachers - -	17	19	19	20
Evening Schools - -	1	3	3	2

Number of pupils in all schools.

1864.		1865.		1866.		1867.	
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
947	655	1,052	692	1,107	678	1,077	694
Total 1,602.		Total 1,744.		Total 1,785.		Total 1,771.	

Total cost to government after deducting receipts.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
£3,188 6*s.* 10*d.*	£3,615	£3,832 2*s.* 1*d.*	£3,878 5*s.*

68. Annexed is a copy of the report of the Superintendant of Education for the year 1867. In it the conditions are set forth on which the several grants in aid are given. By a reference to these the fluctuations in the numbers of schools in different classes in each year will be understood. It is not to be wondered at that the ratio of increase of schools and scholars should under the circumstances of the Colony have received a check in 1866, and that there should have been a small decrease in both in 1867, but rather that the system should have gone on working with so little disturbance.

69. It is perhaps desirable, and it is certainly at present unavoidable, that all attempt at uniformity in the system on which government aid is given to education should be set aside; it is necessary to encourage and to meet private efforts in every shape, but in carrying out this principle, which is easy of application in the country districts where population is scattered, inconvenience has already been experienced with regard to the places where it is concentrated, and especially in the towns of Pietermaritzburgh and Durban. In addition to the government schools there are denominational schools in these two towns receiving grants in aid, and there are others, and many, which are entirely supported by the payments of pupils and by private contributions. It is difficult to see on what grounds these latter schools, if they comply with the rules laid down, should be refused, if they ask for it, the assistance given to others. The support of primary schools in the two towns should be an object of municipal rather than of general government, but unfortunately the law which created the municipalities laid upon them no obligations in regard to education. What those bodies have done of their own accord to further it has had reference to the establishment of collegiate institutions for high class training and instruction.

70. It is clear that as time goes on the number of town schools in private hands, or connected with and managed by religious bodies, will continue to increase, and applications for grants in aid will pour in, which it will be difficult with any fairness to reject, and at the same time scarcely possible to meet. Expenditure will thus augment while efficiency must diminish, for the multiplication of small schools, under teachers not necessarily chosen for their fitness, would end in indifferent teaching, which no supervision could improve. The remedy for this approaching evil would evidently be found in the withdrawal of all grants in aid from private schools established in the towns, and in the extension of the scope and object of the schools which are maintained and managed in each of them exclusively by government.

71. A weak point too in the mixed system in operation is that it supplies no machinery for providing trained teachers for either government or private assisted schools. By limiting in the towns the government contribution to the cause of education in the manner suggested this want might also be met. To do so it would be necessary to substitute for the one primary school in each town two schools, one for boys and one for girls, and to organize these in such a way as to make them the models on which other schools throughout the country should be formed and conducted, while each should be required to train up and maintain a succession of properly qualified teachers of either sex, as the case may be, for distribution among the general body of both government and assisted schools. A detailed scheme for effecting this alteration of system has been drawn up in the shape of a report by the Acting Superintendent of Education, and been laid before the Legislature of the Colony. A copy of this report is also annexed.

Reserve for Native purposes.

72. By the charter of the Colony a sum of 5,000*l.* per annum is reserved out of its general revenues to be applied to the education, improvement, and benefit of its native population. The following statement shows the exact receipts and expenditure of this fund for the five years ending 31st December 1867.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the Reserved Civil List for Native purposes, for the years 1863,1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867.

	RECEIPTS.					EXPENDITURE.						
Years.	Annual Reserve.	Industrial and other Institutions.	Ploughs.	Umvoti Sugar Mill.	Total.	Industrial and other Institutions.	Special Surveyor.	Hospital, Durban.	Umvoti Sugar Mill.	Ploughs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863	5,000	75 5 6	101	30 4 6	5,206 10 0	1,543 4 10	436	547 1 11	607 9 10	—	—	3,133 16 7
1864	5,000	82 14 6	215	21 0 0	5,318 14 6	1,425 10 10	436	—	850 6 3	132 0 0	—	2,843 17 1
1865	5,000	24 5 0	16	17 1 3	5,057 6 3	2,289 0 0	436	—	1,110 3 11	583 0 0	126 9 6	4,544 13 5
1866	5,000	—	193	34 6 8	5,227 6 8	2,084 0 0	436	—	637 17 2	—	3 0 0	3,160 17 2
1867	5,000	—	225	1,007 7 8	6,232 7 8	2,511 18 11	436	—	623 17 4	73 10 0	1 15 0	3,647 1 3
Grand Total	25,000	182 5 0	750	1,110 0 1	27,042 5 1	9,853 14 7	2,180	547 1 11	3,829 14 6	788 10 0	131 4 6	17,330 5 6

It will be observed that there remained at the close of 1867 a balance in favour of the fund of 9,711*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, made up of unexpended portions of the reserve and of actual receipts in addition thereto. These consist of repayments for ploughs sold on credit to natives to encourage agriculture among them, of the proceeds of the sale of sugar made at the Umvoti Sugar Mill, which is the property of the fund, and of casual receipts from the disposal of other property belonging to it.

73. The regular expenditure of this fund may be said to consist of the payment of a salary to a special surveyor who has duties to perform in connexion with the Kafir locations, of the maintenance of the sugar mill at the Umvoti, established by government as an industrial experiment, and of contributions to educational and other industrial institutions. These contributions have always hitherto been made in the shape of grants in aid to missions and missionary societies of various denominations scattered throughout the Colony.

74. The condition upon which they were at first given was that industrial training in crafts requiring special skill should in every case form a branch of the mission teaching, and that no part of the grant should be expended for the general purposes of the mission. The only exception to this rule was made in favour of the Bishop's School, which was looked upon as a normal training school from which teachers were to be sent to other native schools. In 1864 the superintendent of education, who had been appointed visitor of these schools, made a report upon them in which he recommended a wider and freer distribution of the grants. He evidently thought that the large subsidies for industrial objects had produced little good, and that more was likely to be effected by supporting and encouraging efforts of a less ambitious kind. In accordance with this view small grants were made, varying from 50*l.* to 12*l.* per annum, and instruction in the elementary branches of common education was admitted in lieu of industrial training, but doctrinal religious teaching was still excluded. The increased expenditure which is shown by the return to have commenced in 1865 is due to this cause.

75. No diminution, however, was made at that time, nor subsequently, in the amount of assistance given to the industrial training schools. The acting superintendent of education is now upon his tour of inspection, and he has been requested to report specially upon each of these schools, so that a decision may be arrived at as to whether a continuance of this expenditure is justified by the results. It is probable that it will become necessary to reconsider the whole system, and to decide upon the expediency of maintaining or of doing away with the grants made under the original conditions as regards industrial training, and in the latter case of substituting for them one large industrial establishment under the immediate direction and control of the government in the neighbourhood of the capital.

Gaols and Prisons.

76. The subjoined statement which has been compiled partly from the annual returns in the blue books which are manifestly incorrect, and partly from returns I called for for the purpose of amending them, are still so incomplete that it would be impossible to draw from it any conclusions as to how far prison punishment and discipline have tended to check that disposition to crime among the white and the native population which education and training may diminish but cannot wholly eradicate.

Year.	Gaol.	Accommodation.		Total Number of Prisoners in Gaol in each year.	Total number committed during each year.				Number confined for Felony.				For Theft, Assault, and other Offences.				Cost of Additions made in Gaol accommodation during these years.
		Separate Cells hold	Number of Prisoners Gaol can contain when more than one sleeps in one cell.		White.		Black.		White.		Black.		White.		Black.		
					Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	£ s. d.
1863	Pietermaritzburgh New Goal.	19	118	299	65	—	221	13	12	—	15	—	53	—	206	13	221 7 4
1864		19	131	434	77	—	332	25	14	—	23	—	60	3	309	25	402 5 6
1865		21	131	305	41	1	237	26	6	—	27	—	35	1	210	26	—
1866		21	131	313	34	—	254	25	11	—	21	—	23	—	233	25	—
1867		21	131	384	50	3	286	45	13	—	35	—	37	3	251	45	—
1863	Durban Gaol	Some cells will hold without overcrowding according to their size from 2 to 15 prisoners.	160	453	128	6	306	13	6	—	22	—	122	6	284	13	200 0 0
1864				559	114	6	422	17	7	—	12	—	107	6	410	17	2,981 5 3
1865				772	117	9	631	15	7	—	42	—	110	9	589	15	2,140 0 0
1866				672	57	8	596	11	13	—	72	—	44	8	524	11	—
1867				688	60	1	618	9	12	—	49	1	48	1	569	8	760 17 6
1863	Ladysmith Gaol, Co. Klip River.	3	30	246	12	—	230	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	63 12 6
1864		3	30	92	11	—	80	2	—	—	9	—	2	—	6	—	—
1865		3	30	51	18	—	222	2	—	—	3	—	18	—	108	1	—
1866		3	36	47	—	—	—	-	—	—	4	—	4	—	125	4	—
1867		3	30	105	—	—	161	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	30	—	—
1863	Verulam Gaol, Victoria Co.	5	31	22	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	274 1 8
1864		5	30	58	—	—	69	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	10	—	—
1865		5	36	128	—	—	52	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	18	—	—
1866		5	30	152	—	—	150	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—
1867		5	35	51	—	1	47	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	50 0 0
1863	Richmond Gaol	2	8	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	31	—	—
1864		2	8	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	31	—	—
1865		2	18	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	419 19 10
1866		3	20	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
1867		3	12	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
1863	Umhlali Gaol	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	638 4 11
1864		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	261 15 1
1865		1	30	30	3	4	90	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22	—	—
1866		1	30	58	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
1867		5	30	2	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1863	Greytown Gaol	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1864		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1865		3	10	59	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	4	—	130 0 0
1866		3	18	88	—	—	109	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	3	—
1867		3	9	13	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
1866	Newcastle Lock-up	1	4	14	4	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1867		1	4	15	6	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1863	Umzinto Gaol	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	170 16 8
1864		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	242 15 3
1865		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	515 10 9
1866		5	41	39	1	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—
1167		5	41	24	—	—	23	1	—	-	—	—	—	—	3	-	—
1867	Alfred County Gaol, Estcourt Gaol	No Returns; there being no gaols, prisoners are placed in kafir huts under a police guard.															
		5	30	99	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	2		—	4	—	

As the question of penal discipline is now in the hands of a commission appointed to consider and report upon it, I shall postpone all comment on this head till I am, through its means, in possession of better material for the purpose.

77. Attached to the gaol of Pietermaritzburg is an asylum for criminal lunatics; that is to say, when the new portion of the gaol was built the old portion, with certain alterations and additions, was appropriated, as a purely temporary arrangement, to this purpose. The asylum is not in a satisfactory condition, nor is it likely to be so till it is removed to a separate building, where the patients may be subjected to less restriction and to more enlightened treatment. This is one of the first of the requirements of the Colony, which it is proposed to meet so soon as its finances are in a state to allow of full advantage being taken of the public works loan. During the five years under review 72 patients have been treated in the gaol. At the close of 1867 there were 16 patients in the asylum.

78. The Colony possesses at present two public hospitals, one in Pietermaritzburg, the other in Durban. In 1855 Sir George Grey, then Her Majesty's High Commissioner at the Cape, finding on a visit to Natal that it had no hospital, undertook to build one on certain conditions out of funds at his disposal granted by the Imperial Government for the general purposes of British Kaffraria. The conditions were that the corporation of Pietermaritzburg should endow the hospital with one thousand acres of its best lands. This was assented to, the hospital was built out of the funds named, and was finally completed by the local government at an expense to itself of about 300*l.* It was then handed over to the corporation under a deed of trust, and has been managed by them since that time. The land when given over was valued at about 10*l.* an acre. Soon afterwards, however, land became unsaleable and could be put to no profit, and as the corporation had no trust funds other than what this endowment might produce, the government was compelled to contribute 1,000*l.* per annum out of general revenue for the maintenance of the hospital, and it continues to do so at the present day. The trustees have in addition expended about 300*l.* per annum upon it out of corporate funds. They are now calling upon the government to relieve them of this charge, and it is probable that some fresh arrangement must shortly be entered into by which the government shall have the control and management of the hospital as well as the burden of its cost, while the borough shall be required to pay, according to a daily scale to be agreed upon, for the maintenance and treatment of its own sick poor. In the five years ending the 31st December 1867, 565 patients had been treated in this hospital, and there were at that time 33 inmates.

79. The hospital at Durban was built by government out of the fund reserved for native purposes, but its use has not been confined to natives. The general government has borne the whole charge of its maintenance, the corporation of Durban having contributed nothing towards it. A like arrangement as to the sick poor of Durban will have to be made with the corporation of that town as with that of Pietermaritzburg. This hospital has had 916 inmates during the five years named, and contained 33 patients at the close of 1867.

Concluding Remarks.

80. In the years which have been thus statistically examined the Colony was passing through a state of feverish excitement to one of profound exhaustion. But when it was at its worst its recuperative powers were not wholly obscured. While the shortlived prosperity of those who had "hastened to be rich" was ending in disappointment and distress, patient labour was slowly producing its fruits. Agricultural industry did not indeed escape unscathed. The operations for instance of planters on the coast, which are of a nature to require the application of large capital, were in some cases seriously embarrassed, and some of these shared in the general downfall. But the productions of the soil did not cease to increase and multiply. It has been already stated that in and about the year 1864 various items of colonial produce took the place of importations for internal use, and began to appear in appreciable quantities in the table of exports. By this comparatively slow but sure process complete prostration was averted; renewed health and vigour are now being imparted by it.

81. There are many persons who have persuaded themselves that discoveries of gold, whether within or beyond the confines of the Colony, are to operate a change upon its aspect and fortunes. It may be so. That gold and other minerals exist there can be no doubt, but no reliable evidence has yet been forthcoming of their abounding in sufficient quantities to make their manipulation a profitable enterprise. What is known of them may quicken the influx of immigrants, and so push forward with greater

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rapidity the increase of production. It is to population, production, and exportation, that the Colony must look to retrieve its fortunes.

82. The extent of land under culture in 1863 and 1867, and the quantities in those years of its various kinds of produce, and of the live stock upon it, are given for the sake of comparison and of marking progress in the following Return. It shows also the number of acres on which crops were standing at the close of 1867.

1863.

Nature of Crop.	Acres of Land Cultivated.	Produce.
Indian Corn	24,451¼	128,302 muids
Wheat	613⅓	5,094 „
Kafir Corn	7,430	50,108 „
Oats (besides oat forage)	3,772¼	13,594 „
Barley	314¼	1,505 „
Beans	146	710½ „
Buckwheat	98	592 „
Potatoes (round)	509¾	5,048 „
Potatoes (sweet)	950	30,815 „
Sugar	9,836	6,992½ tons
Coffee	268¾	51,367 lbs.
Arrowroot	188	980¾ cwt.
Tobacco	353	33,277 lbs.
Cotton	1,229¼	16,322 „
Dried Fruits	—	151½ muids

Horses, 12,594; horned cattle, 241,861; wooled sheep, 149,164. Kafir sheep included in wooled sheep. Mules not entered. Goats, 116,091; pigs, 4,924; bacon, 68,379 lbs.; wool, 215,168 lbs.; butter, 80,337; cheese, 2,570 lbs.; rum, 2,606 gallons.

1867.

Nature of Crop.	Acres of Land Cultivated.	Produce.
Indian Corn	179,009¼	397,602 muids
Wheat	2,845¼	11,200 „
Kafir Corn	51,445	131,304 „
Oats (besides oat forage)	2,281¾	3,664 „
Barley	466	1,180½ „
Beans	922½	2,320¼ „
Buckwheat	216	722 „
Potatoes (round)	1,113¼	17,198¾ „
Potatoes (sweet)	3,445¼	72,214 „
Sugar	17,225	5,727¼ tons
Coffee	4,850¾	102,973 lbs.
Arrowroot	978	10,295 „
Tobacco	207	81,026 „
Cotton	1,430¾	152,751 „
Dried Fruits	—	—

Horses, 23,289; horned cattle, 411,581; wooled sheep, 234,486; Kafir sheep, 51,778; mules, 100; goats 165,016; pigs, 11,197; bacon, 65,808 lbs.; wool, 434,573 lbs.; butter, 298,785 lbs.; cheese, 4,806 lbs.; rum, 10,973⅓ gallons.

83. The extension which is now recommencing of sugar and coffee cultivation in the coast districts must necessarily before long demand an accession to the Indian element of the population, or, what is more desirable, it will attract native labour to the Colony from beyond its borders. A large amount of capital is invested in these industries, and the manufacture of spirits is also on the increase. In these directions a permanent improvement in the exports of the Colony may be looked for.

84. Though the union articles of coast growth, such as arrowroot, cotton, and spices, are not likely to attain any prominence as exports, it is mainly upon produce of a tropical character that Natal must depend if it is to take a forward place among exporting colonies. The manufacture of sugar is for many reasons less costly in Natal than in the West Indies, and notwithstanding its greater distance from the markets of the world, freights are not so far in excess as to make up the difference. Very great success has attended the introduction and propagation of the China cane, a plant which

seems to be peculiarly adapted to the soil and climate of the coast. Perhaps the portion of South Africa which is most suitable to sugar cultivation, and has a soil and climate most like that of the proper habitat of the cane, is the tract of rich land lying between the northern boundary of Natal on the coast and St. Lucia Bay which has been annexed to it. This however now forms part of the Zulu country.

85. Of up country produce wool holds the first place as an article of export, but much of this comes down, together with ivory, skins, and feathers, from the interior, and is the representative, not of local industry, but of mercantile transactions between the Colony and its customers beyond its borders. Hides, butter, grain, meal, salt meats, and other like articles appear in the list of exports, but none of them can yet be said to have attained the rank of staples.

86. Natal, taken as a whole, is adapted to a very wide range of cultivation. Inland it has a fair soil, abundant water, and a fine climate. Small farmers of industrious habits may obtain in its central and upper districts probably as much solid domestic comfort at a small outlay as in any British Colony. No doubt they will gradually attain to more than this, and be enriched by the exportation of their wool and hides, meal, and other produce. But the semi-tropical coast districts offer a better field for the application of capital, and promise quicker and larger results. It is there then that progress will be most rapidly perceptible.

87. In 1866 and 1867 the streets of the two towns of the Colony were thronged by numbers of unemployed mechanics, artizans, and handicraftsmen, seeking relief from government in their distress. These men had floated at the top of the tide of prosperity while it lasted, and were left stranded by its reflux. If this was at the time one of the most painful signs of the stagnation which had come upon the life of the community, its total disappearance now may be an indication, however slight, of a return to better things.

(Signed) ROBT. W. KEATE.

Enclosure No. 1 in Lieut. Governor Keate's Blue Book Report for the year 1867.

L. C.—No. 1, 1868.

The following Report upon comparative trials of Natal and English coal, made by the Surveyor General and Colonial Engineer on board the Government steam tug "Pioneer," is published for general information.

By order of the Legislative Council,
THOMAS FOSTER,
Clerk.

June 24th, 1868.

REPORT upon comparative trials of Natal and English coal, made by the Surveyor General and Colonial Engineer on board the Government Steam Tug "Pioneer."

Not having at our disposal either the means or the time to obtain sufficient accurate and reliable data to determine the absolute economic value and heating power of the coals submitted for trial, which would have necessitated the construction of special apparatus and a lengthened series of experiments requiring much more time and attention than the general duties of our several offices enabled us to afford, we have confined ourselves to a series of trials of the various samples of Natal coal supplied for the purpose in comparison with good English steam coal; our object being that by taking English coal of a known value for steam purposes, and obtaining certain results therefrom tested with a particular boiler and set of furnaces, and under certain conditions and circumstances, we could thereby obtain a standard of comparison with the Natal coals tested with the same boiler and furnaces and and under similar conditions and circumstances.

From such comparative results the absolute economic value of the Natal coals can be readily obtained, or at least approximated, however defective the construction of the boiler and furnaces with which the coal has actually been tested may be, and however indifferent therefore the actual results of the trials may appear—inasmuch as the absolute economic value of the English coal being known, so the absolute value of the various samples of Natal coal will be to their value as actually obtained during our trials in the same ratio as the known absolute economic value of the English coal is to its value as obtained from the same trials.

It is true that various descriptions of coal require different arrangements of furnaces, regulation of draught, &c., in order to produce in each case the highest results, but as the object sought was to ascertain the real practical value of the Natal coals for steam purposes in ordinary steam boilers, and chiefly for marine purposes, we believe that no better practical test could be applied than by ascertaining the evaporative power of these coals applied in ordinary marine furnaces to a tubular marine boiler of the ordinary construction.

The mode in which the trials have been conducted is as follows:—

The boiler of the Pioneer having been entirely emptied of water was then carefully filled by means of a vessel of standard capacity, kindly lent by the Collector of Customs for the purpose, up to a certain point upon a scale fixed upon the water gauge of the boiler. This afforded a datum from whence to measure the evaporation accurately.

The boiler having been previously emptied, so that the water used should be supplied direct from

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the sea and at the same density on each occasion, sea water was then pumped into the boiler until it reached the datum level in the gauge glass.

The temperature of the water was then carefully ascertained and noted immediately before the fires were lighted in the furnaces.

The coals intended for trial having previously been brought on board from the store at the Harbour Works, where they are all deposited in separate lots, each carefully marked, a certain portion, being about the quantity ordinarily used to charge the furnaces was then accurately weighed and sent down to the stoke hole, where it was all carefully placed in the furnaces in the usual manner with 20lbs of wood, also carefully weighed, used in each trial to assist ignition.

The fires were then lighted, a note being made of the precise time.

After the fires were lighted a further quantity of coal was carefully weighed on deck and sent down below to stoke with during the trial.

The steam valves of the boiler were opened before the fires were lighted so as to admit of the unchecked egress of the steam, as the object sought was to allow the water to evaporate freely.

The steam pipe was then carefully watched in order to observe the first puff of steam, the time of which was noted. The manner in which the coals burnt, description of flame, and nature and volume of smoke were also carefully oberved and noted during the continuance of the experiment.

When it was considered necessary to cease stoking in order to prevent the water in the boiler getting too low, the furnace doors were finally closed and the coals allowed to burn out, a note being made of the time at which stoking ceased; a careful note was also taken of the time at which the steam ceased to issue from the steam pipe, which in all cases was found to be almost simultaneous with the extinction of the fires. During the continuance of the trials the furnaces were attended to and stoked in the usual manner by the stokers of the Pioneer, under the direction of the engineer, Mr. Miller.

The furnaces and boiler were then left untouched until next morning, by which time they had cooled down. The water in the boiler was then raised to the datum level by pouring in water from the sea with the same standard measure used in ascertaining the capacity of the boiler, and thus the quantity of water evaporated during the trial was ascertained accurately.

The surplus coals left over the quantity sent down to stoke with was then carefully weighed, and thus the exact quantity of coals put into the furnaces during the trial was ascertained.

The furnace doors were then opened and all the remains of the coal carefully raked out, examined, separated into half burnt coal and coke, clinkers and partly fused matter, and ashes, and all carefully weighed and noted.

The net weight of coal expended was obtained by deducting the weight of the half burnt coal and coke fit for burning again from the total weight of coal put into the furnace during the trial.

All the observations, measurements, and weights were taken by at least two persons separately, and generally by three persons, and compared at the time in order to prevent inaccuracy, and they were all noted at the time upon a tabular form prepared for the purpose, and from which, carefully checked with the several separate observations taken, the table appending hereto is framed.

It will be observed that the temperature of the water in the boiler at the commencement of the several trials varied very considerably. This was chiefly owing to the Pioneer being very much engaged during the period of our trials of the coal on board of her, so that we could only carry on these trials at such intervals as were convenient, and it happened that on several occasions the boiler had not time to be thoroughly cooled down before the trial commenced.

We have been thus particular in stating at length the manner in which the trials were carried on in order to show that, of whatever value the results of our experiments may be, these results were at any rate carefully obtained, and are reliable as far as they go.

The several varieties of coal tried were as follows:—

English—West Hartley main, a coal the absolute economical value of which has fortunately been tested in comparative trials in England, and is to be found in the reports of such trials. That used was selected from a lot just received into the government coal shed from the Verulam, and in a very fair condition. The captain of the ship was fortnnately able to produce the shipping note of the coals received by him in London, which proved the correctness of his statement as to the description of the coals.

The Natal coals consisted of seven samples, all from the district of Newcastle, but from different localities, some of which are upwards of 40 miles apart.

All of these coals were procured within a very short distance of the surface from escarpments of the strata caused by the intersection of natural watercourses, and it was from such places only that the Natal coals experimented upon were obtained, there being as yet no borings or sinkings made to obtain or even to determine the extent and quantity of the coal at any distance from such natural outcrops.

The localities from whence the seven samples of Natal coal were procured are as follows:—

1. Brak Hoek (Vander Merve's farm), near the township of Newcastle.
2. Lion Veldt, near Murray's farm.
3. Stein Kohl Spruit, Dundee farm, Biggarsberg.
4. Tyger Kloof, Horn River.
5. Lion Veldt, Davel's farm.
6. Lennox farm, near Biggarsberg.
7. Lion Veld, near Wilson's huts.

It was found during the first two trials, viz., of West Hartley main coal and Brak Hoek coal, that the combustion in the furnaces was too strong, the coals in both instances burning away too rapidly to give fair results; sheet iron dampers were therefore constructed, and fixed to the ashpits to regulate the draught before the trials were resumed.

Unfortunately, as it was considered desirable to retain a certain quantity of the Brak Hoek coal for transmission to England, a sufficient quantity could not be spared to enable us to make a second trial of this coal with the dampers, but by taking the comparative results of the English coal without and with the dampers, we think a fair comparative value of the Brak Hoek coal under similar circumstances may also be obtained, and this we have worked out as shown in the table.

The chief objects sought for in testing the value of steam coals for marine purposes are these:—

1st. A high evaporative power in comparison with bulk and weight.

2d. Rapidity of evaporation.

3d. Freedom from sulphur, slag, and other foreign substances which are injurious to the fire-bars or are apt to clog them and thereby prevent a proper draught.

4th. For war steamers little smoke and that of light colour, so that the vicinity of such vessels may not be too readily betrayed to the enemy.

A reference to the table will show that with regard to the first point of comparative value, that for equal weights, one sample of Natal coal (that from Dundee) gave a higher result than the English coal; that another (from Brak Hoek) gave very nearly as high a result; and the lowest result obtained was only 20 per cent. less than that from the English coal, which we find to be much less than the difference between the evaporative power of different descriptions of Newcastle coal.

With regard to the second point it will be seen that the value of the Brak Hoek coal is considerably in excess of the English, whilst the others are considerably under it; the results from the Tyger Kloof coal being less than 50 per cent. of the English.

We are of opinion that these inferior results are attributable chiefly to the presence of various earthy and incombustible ingredients, as indicated by the comparatively high specific gravity of such coal.

With regard to the third point, although the per-centage of scoriæ, calcined shale, ashes, and other refuse given by the Natal coal is, with one exception, that of the Dundee coal, which gives a lower per-centage than the English, considerably larger than that given by the latter, yet it is particularly to be noted that the refuse matter found in the furnaces after the trials did not in any way appear to impede the free combustion of the coal, nor did it clog or fuse on the bars during our trials, although, had the combustion of the coals been carried on uninterruptedly for a prolonged period, and a much larger quantity of coals been expended, it is possible, from the nature and proportion of some portion of the refuse, that a slight fusing on the bars might have taken place in some cases.

Consequently, if a certain bulk or weight of Natal coals gives as good an economical result as an equal bulk or weight of English coal, the per-centage of refuse is of little importance, involving merely some little extra labour in raking it out and throwing it overboard.

Slight traces of sulphur were perceptible during combustion of the Tyger Kloof sample, but not, so far as we could judge, to such an extent as to be injurious to the furnaces.

There was no difficulty in obtaining sufficient draught in any case; on the contrary, in some cases the ignition was too rapid, the coals evolving heat so strongly as to cause the boilers to prime and necessitate the draught being checked.

Nor was there any occasion for any special or extraordinary raking of the fires.

Under the fourth head the Natal coals contrast very favourably with the English, the smoke from the former being in all cases both lighter in colour and less in volume than the latter, and when the Natal coals were fairly ignited the smoke was in most instances almost imperceptible.

This result would appear to be caused by the smaller proportion of bituminous matter as indicated also by the higher specific gravity of the Natal coal and the greater density of the fixed carbon.

When it is taken into consideration that the samples of Natal coals were all obtained from natural outcrops, we consider that the results of our trials as given on the appended tabular statement are very satisfactory as to the value of certain Natal coals for steam purposes when selected with care.

In addition to the samples of the Natal coal, the result of which are tabulated, two other samples were tried, viz., from Lennox Farm, Biggarsberg, specific gravity 1·375; Lion Veldt, near Wilson's Huts, specific gravity 1·441; but these are not tabulated, because no satisfactory results were obtained in either of these two instances, although the experiments were conducted, so far as they went, in precisely the same manner as in the other trials.

In the case of the Lennox coal, as soon as the wood used to kindle the fire had burnt out the coals began to cake and only ignited in front of the furnace, crumbling away and caking, and giving short flames like smiths coals in a forge, with a good deal of blue flame. Finding there was no chance of raising steam with these coals, they were left burning in the furnaces with closed doors until evening, when they had burnt out in about 9 hours 25 minutes. On raking out the furnaces it was found that the coal had entirely burnt away, leaving only a very fine white dust.

This coal was taken from a natural outcrop which was opened for the first time to obtain the coal used in this experiment, which, from appearance, had lost by exposure a considerable proportion of its volatile matter.

We afterwards found by analysis that the sample of this coal, as experimented upon, still contains about 13 per cent. of volatile matter, which burnt with a strong bright flame.

As the Dundee coal comes from the same neighbourhood, and apparently from about the same level, and yields 27 per cent. of volatile matter, we are of opinion that the Lennox coal in its perfect state will be found to contain an equal amount of volatile matter, and be equally valuable for steam purposes, from the large proportion of fixed carbon in the coal and the abscence of an undue proportion of ashes.

The trial with the coal from near Wilson's Huts was equally unsuccessful; the fires were lighted at 8.44 A.M. and were kept up until 11 A.M., but the coal would scarcely burn at all, giving a very little flame of a reddish blue tint with no smoke, and no heat could be obtained from it. The trial was therefore abandoned.

This coal was obtained from a seam of only two feet in thickness, almost constantly overflowed by a stream of water, and which had been but recently opened.

In conclusion, we have to thank Mr. George Bucham, engineer, of Addington, for his kind and valuable voluntary assistance during the trials, and also Mr. Miller, engineer of the steam tug, for his care, attention, and zeal in carrying out our arrangements.

(Signed) P. C. SUTHERLAND, F.R.G.S.,
Surveyor General.

(Signed) PETER PATERSON, Assoc. Inst. C.E.,
Colonial Engineer.

Natal, 20th June 1861.

TABLE,

RESULTS of EXPERIMENTS upon the comparative values of good English Steam Coal (West Hartley Main) diameter, and total estimated effective heating surface of

No. of trial.	Name of Coal.	Quantity of coal used to charge furnaces.	Additional quantity of coal used to stoke with.	Weight of partly-burnt coal, coke, and cinders fit to use again.	Weight of clinker, earthy and vitreous matter, and calcined shale.	Weight of ashes.	Net quantity of coal burnt.	Per-centage of clinker, earthy and vitreous matter, and calcined shale.	Total per-centage of refuse, including ashes.	Temperature of water when fires were lighted.	Quantity of water raised from foregoing temperature to 212°.	Quantity of water actually evaporated.	Lbs. of water evaporated from 212°, equivalent to heat evolved.	Lbs. of water evaporated from 212°, by 1lb. of coal.	Proportionate evaporating power from equal weights, taking English coal at 1,000 as a standard.
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.			deg.	galls.	galls.	[b]a		
1	English Coal, West Hartley Main.	615	358	58½	scarcely a trace.	97½	914½	Nil.	10	78½	2245	309	5718·55	6·25	1000
													lbs.		
2	Natal, Brak Hoek, Newcastle District.	615	279	26	[a] × 62½	106½	868	6·99	18·9	88	do.	285	5290·91	6·09	974·4
3	English Coal, West Hartley.	609	300	20	10	85	889	1·10	10·45	77	do.	375	6425·61	7·22	1000
4	Murray's Farm, Lion Veldt.	603	373	11½	43	115	964½	4·4	16·18	77	do.	362	6291·97	6·52	903·04
				[a] ×											
5	Dundee Stein, Kohl Spruit.	593	283	47	2	80	829	0·22	9·36	72½	do.	330	6048·64	7·29	1009·6
6	Tyger Kloof - -	601	427	Nil.	57	125	1028	5·54	17·70	17	do.	345	5296·72	5·76	797·77
7	Davel's Farm, Lion Veldt.	620	419	25	2	264	1014	0·19	25·60	90	do.	345	5869·88	5·78	800·55
	Brak Hoek calculated in proportion to English coals as tried with dampers.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7·03	973·68

[a] × *vide* Remarks.

[b]a Water calculated at 10·28 lbs. per gall.

SHOWING

and Natal Coal, made with a Marine Multitubular Boiler of 60 horse-power, with 140 tubes of 3″ external 737½ square feet, and a grate surface of 46·7 square feet.

Time required to get up steam.	Specific gravity of coal.	Weight per cubic foot.	Proportionate bulk of coal for equal weights.	Lbs. of water evaporated from 212° by 1 cubic foot of coal.	Total time expended in evaporating water from time of lighting fires.	Lbs. of water evaporated per lb. of coal per hour.	Proportionate rate of evaporation.	Volume and description of smoke.	General Remarks.
					h. m.				
42 m.	1·274	79·62	1000	498·13	2·05	3·0	1000	Smoke dark grey; greater volume than in succeeding trial.	The substances classed in the 6th column consisted, not of clinker properly so called, but rather of a light kind of calcined shale, slightly fused and vitrified; no traces of caking or running on the bars, and all the refuse raked out easily, and left the fire-bars perfectly clean; no trace of sulphur.
39½m.	1·341	84·25	945	513·68	1·41	3·62	1206	Smoke small in volume and light in colour; towards end of trial, when coal was all thoroughly ignited, smoke was scarcely visible.	Coal burnt so strongly, had to check draught. Boiler tending to prime. It was found that the coal used in this and preceding trial burnt too fast, and that the draught could not be sufficiently checked, therefore had sheet iron dampers specially constructed for ashpits, to check draughts in future trials.
38 m.	1·274	79·62	1000	575·77	1·47	4·05	1000	Smoke dark grey; small in volume.	New dampers used for ashpits in this and succeeding trials.
42 m.	1·369	85·56	930	558·29	2·00	3·26	804·9	Smoke at first dark, but not dense; when stoking, smoke dark and rather dense, but of small volume; when stoking ceased, smoke became almost invisible.	No tendency to cake or run on bars. All raked out freely, and left fire-bars perfectly clean.
50½m.	1·302	81·37	978	594·16	2·04	3·52	869·1	Smoke at first light grey, and not dense, gradually got lighter; just after stoking smoke dark and dense for a few minutes, and then gradually got lighter until scarcely visible; from time when trial was about half over, no smoke was visible at all.	The 47 lbs. of material given in column 5 was all good clean coke. The refuse under column 7 was partly fine coke, and partly grey ashes. Coal showed no tendency to cake or run on bars.
h. m. 1 25½	1·412	88·25	902	509·17	2·52½	2·01	496·3	Smoke light in quantity and colour.	This coal was rather slow of ignition at first, but ignited very well by degrees, and gave a fine clear strong fire, burnt so freely fires had to be damped. No tendency to cake or run on bars.
56 m.	1·377	86·06	925	498·29	2·12	2·62	649·9	Smoke light and small in volume at first; when coals thoroughly ignited, no perceptible smoke.	This coal burnt with a clear open fire, no caking or running on the bars; furnaces raked out quite clean.

(Signed) P. C. Sutherland, F.R.G.S.,
Surveyor General.

(Signed) Peter Paterson, Assoc. Inst. C.E.,
Colonial Engineer.

NATAL.

Encl. 2.

Enclosure No. 2.

REPORT of the Acting Superintendent of Education for the year 1867.

During the year 1867 there were four schools maintained and managed exclusively by Government, viz., two high schools, one at Pietermaritzburg and the other at Durban; and two common schools, one at Pietermaritzburg and the other at Durban.

2. There were 42 schools, denominational, local, and private, receiving aid from Government.

3. And 20 teachers, called Itinerant, were receiving aid in the four counties in which the system is in operation.

4. There were 1,771 boys and girls at school during the year, of whom 1,077 were boys and 694 girls, and the average attendance was 1,290, or somewhat under 20 for each school.

5. The total cost to the Government was 3,878*l.* 5*s.*, and the total receipts in the way of fees and contributions was 2,666*l.* 18*s.*, consequently the expense of educating these 1,700 children was 6,545*l.* 3*s.*

6. The issue from the book store during the year has been:

Books	2,707
Copy books	1,739
Maps	114
Wall tablets	25
Of these books	1,638
Copy books	1,571
Maps	54
Wall tablets	8

were sold, and the rest distributed to the schools. The amount paid into the Treasury for the sale of books was 43*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*

7. In April the high school of Pluburg lost the services of Mr. Calder, who went home on sick leave; Since that time the Government has availed itself of the services of Mr. Hardwicke, a gentleman whose long experience in teaching suggested the selection, while the results of the three last quarters have justified it. The school has been increasing from an average in the first quarter of 43 to an average at the end of the year of 53. Mr. Hardwick's services are the more deserving of praise because he had given up the profession of teaching and had found employment more congenial to him, and he has resumed his work as a teacher solely at the desire of Government, while awaiting the return of Mr. Calder or the appointment of his successor.

8. The master of the high school at Durban has raised the number of the scholars from 17 in 1866 to an average of 31 in 1867, with 33 names on the books. He has raised the school to the utmost limit of its present capabilities. He has no assistant, nor are the rooms at present used for the school large enough to admit of a second division and an assistant master; at the same time, it is not right that the whole work of teaching 33 boys should be left too long to Mr. Russell alone, in a climate like ours; it is a matter of importance that the rooms, for which a sum of 700*l.* has been placed on the estimate for the present year, should be built as soon as possible, to enable a second division to be formed under an assistant master to meet the numerous applications for admission, which at present cannot be met, and to give Mr. Russell a relief which he well deserves.

9. The number of schools both here and at Durban is increasing, and applications are made for grants in aid of them; the present state of the revenue renders it impossible to increase the grants to any great amount, and a period in our educational system has been reached when it may fairly be open to consideration whether the Government should any longer give aid to city schools, denominational or private; it may have been the case that in order to induce people to open schools in the towns, the assistance of religious bodies or the aid of Government was necessary; plainly it is not so now. The number of unaided schools in our cities is a proof that in spite of the expenses of a town life (as rent, food, &c.), teaching in the towns is found to be a fair way of gaining a livelihood.

Such being the case, it seems that the time has come when (to use the Superintendent's words in his Report of 1862) the Government "may withdraw from this task in proportion as the community can " be taught efficiently to carry out the work for itself."

The case with our country schools is different. There the scattered homesteads, and even the hamlets, find it difficult by contributions in kind or money, by giving a house and school, and by the school fees to induce a competent teacher to come among them; in these cases Government must still be invoked to aid private efforts by public grants.

10. Or if it should appear that the marked increase in our city schools is due in a great measure to causes of a temporary nature, and that it is still necessary to provide public money for the education of the city youth, this duty should fall rather on the municipalities than on the Colonial Government.

11. Our municipalities have not as yet done much for education. In 1861 both Pietermaritzburg and Durban appeared anxious to found collegiate institutions in their respective towns, and laws were passed for that object. At Durban nothing further appears to have been done; at Pietermaritzburg the municipality, in conjunction with the Colonial Government, appointed trustees for carrying out the scheme of founding a college. When these trustees came to consider the matter practically they found that the means at their disposal were inadequate to the end proposed, it was, therefore, resolved by the trustees to suspend for the present all attempts to commence a college, as simply impossible, in the condition of the Colony, and with their present funds, but to use those funds in such a manner as to secure some revenue at once, and at the same time to assist as far as possible the cause of high class education in the city; and the municipality found the money for purchasing the land and for building the rooms, which are at present occupied by the high school. Here, however, their efforts stopped, and since July 1866 they have paid nothing to the trustees, either of the principal (viz., the balance unpaid of the original grant of 5,000*l.*) or interest upon the balance, as arranged by themselves to be paid, till at the close of 1867 the interest alone on the unpaid balance amounted to more than 300*l.*

12. Whether or not, hereafter, the government with or without the assistance of the municipality, may undertake to provide the means of education for every boy and girl in the Colony, at present it is plain that the efforts of the government must be more limited. One object fairly attainable might be carried out without much delay, viz., to supply in each city a high school for boys and another for girls, and in each city a primary school for boys and another for girls.

13. These schools, being directly under government care and supervision, ought to be model schools to all others in the Colony; they should also serve as training schools for our masters and mistresses. At present one need of our schools is trained teachers; we cannot afford to send for them from home, nor support them adequately when here; we must make our own teachers; with the aid of exhibitions, or small monthly payments, such of our boys and girls as seemed fit for the purpose might be induced to remain at these government schools after term, at which our scholars (at least such as have their livelihood to gain at once) are in the habit of leaving school for the purpose of acting as teachers; these, with others more advanced in years, who, selecting the occupation of teacher for their livelihood, might avail themselves of these government schools to learn how to teach, would go far to supply our present want of skilled teachers.

14. With the changes and modifications which the experience of ten years has shown to be necessary, the management of the grants in aid is at present based on the three following rules:

I. Where the number of scholars (above 5 years old) is above 45, the grant in aid is to be 70*l.*

		£
Where the scholars are more than	30	the grant is 50
" " "	20	" 36
" " "	12	" 25
" " less than	12	" 16

II. That the amount of private aid in the way of contributions and school fees must at least equal the grant in aid.

III. That the strict rule as to numbers may be relaxed in favour of schools where the numbers are not quite up to the scale, provided the supporters of the school show by large contributions their desire to secure a superior teacher for their children.

15. On examining the registries of the various schools receiving grants in aid during the three last years, viz., for the years 1865, 1866, 1867, it appears that several schools have gradually fallen off in attendance and subscriptions. The grants to these schools should in justice to other schools be reduced to the established scale. The following schools are receiving grants more or less in excess of the scale:— Richmond, Berea, Sydenham, New Germany, Ladysmith, Pinetown, Lupingo, Clairmont, Umzinto, Sfafa, Victoria, Mount Moreland, Greytown, Weenen.

16. It will be noticed that all those schools called district schools, viz., Ladysmith, Weenen, and Greytown, are set down as drawing grants in excess of the scale. These grants were made on a liberal scale in hopes that teachers would be secured at those towns whose schools would become centres of education in their respective districts, and that the farmers resident in the country round would be induced to send their children to board in these towns and attend the schools. The failures in this respect cannot be charged to the teachers, these were selected with great care for their character and skill in teaching.

The main reason for the failure hitherto appears to have been the want of proper accommodation for a boarding school, and the consequent difficulty of maintaining discipline out of school hours. The head of a family sending his children to board in the town of his district could not feel sure that his children would be kept strictly away from evil examples which the town presents.

17. Districts would do well to combine and build good houses for boarding schools in their respective towns; the expense would perhaps be considerable at first, but in the long run a good boarding school would be far cheaper and more effectual for the education of the youth of these districts than the present system of tutors in each farm house.

18. The system of giving government aid to itinerant teachers has been doubtless the best means of assisting education in these counties, and speaking generally still is so; it was merely the extension of a system already in existence, under which religious instruction was provided for the youths of the Dutch families before taking their first communion.

From the very nature of it, the education given by a teacher who resides for a few months, or even for a year at one house, and then removes to another, cannot be of a very satisfactory or permanent duration; nevertheless it is far better than no education at all, and it would be inexpedient to remove abruptly the grants in aid of this class of schools. Nevertheless, as the county districts become more settled, the itinerant tutor must yield to the country school; thus the system is nearly extinct in the county of Pietermaritzburg already, and there are signs of settlement and combination for school purposes in the other districts, where the itinerant tutor is still the useful pioneer of a better method of teaching.

19. In the estimates for education in years prior to 1866 there was a larger or smaller grant (in 1865 it was 300*l.*) for new and additional "grants and other special services."

This grant in 1866 was reduced to 100*l.*, and the government, in consequence of the failing revenue, would not permit even that sum to be used, and in the estimates for this year the vote for these purposes disappears altogether; nevertheless it is a vote so essential to the working of our present educational system of grants in aid that it is highly desirable to have it renewed.

20. It is the fund out of which the government can assist a new school in its early difficulties (at a time, that is to say, when a little ready money goes a long way) without waiting for the next year's estimates, and out of this fund a school which shows increasing numbers and efficiency can be assisted at once, while, on the other hand, there remains only the power of reducing or withholding grants in case the school fails to do its work.

(Signed) T. WARWICK BROOKS,
Acting Superintendent of Education.

March 1868.

NATAL.

OFFICIAL REPORT ON NATAL COALS.

From the following official report it would appear that Natal coals stand a fair chance of coming into use for steam purposes. The results of the experiments made are far more satisfactory than could be expected, when it is remembered that the samples of coal sent have been obtained without the expense of sinking shafts, and are probably surface coal, or very much mixed with the inferior descriptions that have deteriorated by exposure to atmospheric action.

Within the last few days the surveyor general has reported on coal found at the Umhlanga, within about ten miles of the port. The seam, where it crops out, is only about three inches in thickness, but it is said to be among mineral indications that are new to the geologist, and are likely to contradict some of his theories, as well as to take down his dogmatism a peg or two. Much stress is now laid on the value of the new discovery, but it may possibly lead to further investigations which may be attended with useful results:—

Remarks on the quality of Natal coal as compared with that of West Hartley, which is about the average of North Country coal, and with Cardiff, which is one of the best qualities of Welsh coal.

	No. of minutes raising steam on board H.M.'s. St. "Hydra."	Coal expended.
Cardiff	60 minutes.	26 cwt.
West Hartley	50 „	32 „
Natal	55 „	30 „

When steaming on the second grade, and the same amount of water raised into steam in each case:

Cardiff	1,624 lbs. expended per hour.
West Hartley	2,293 „ „ „
Natal	1,568 „ „ „

When steaming on the second grade, and the same amount of water raised into steam in each case:

Cardiff	1,624 lbs. expended per hour.
West Hartley	2,293 „ „ „
Natal	2,128 „ „ „

Per-centage of ashes and clinkers.

Cardiff	9 per cent. ashes,	2 per cent. clinkers.
West Hartley	8 „ „	5 „ „
Natal	16 „ „	7 „ „

Amount of smoke.

Cardiff, very little, of a light brown colour.
West Hartley, a large quantity of black smoke.
Natal, a moderate amount of light brown smoke.

When steaming easy the Natal coal is nearly equal in commercial value to the Cardiff, but when as much steam is required as can be generated a much larger proportion is used. This is owing to the quantity of earthy matter contained in the Natal coal, which deadens the fires, and makes it impossible to keep steam up without the constant use of the pricker and rake.

A less quantity of Natal coal is used than of West Hartley for the same amount of steam generated, but it is much easier to keep steam with the latter than the former.

It is my opinion that if the Natal coal can be obtained free from earthy matter it will be equal to the best qualities of Welsh coals.

(Signed) JNO. A. LODGE,
Engineer in charge of H.M. St. "Hydra."

May 28, 1868.

Extract from a letter from Capt. P. Shortland, H.M.'s St. "Hydra," a surveying ship lately employed in laying down the boundary for the India and Aden telegraph.

Dear Sir, H.M.'s St. "Hydra," Algoa Bay, 2d June 1868.

I enclose the result of the comparison between the seven tons of Natal coal you caused to be placed on board the "Hydra," and Cardiff and West Hartley coal respectively.

You will perceive that it is favourable to Natal coal if it can be procured free from the earthy matter which that sent us contained, and which accounts for the large per-centage of ashes and clinker which resulted from its combustion, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. FREDK. SHORTLAND.

Major the Honourable D. Erskine,
Colonial Secretary.

Encl. 3.

Enclosure No. 3.

SIR, Educational Department, Natal, May 30, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report in accordance with the minute of his Excellency the Administrator of the Government, attached to my letter of the 21st April 1868.

The government at present contributes towards the maintenance of schools at Pietermaritzburg and Durban the following sums:

	£	£
In Pietermaritzburg high school:		
Head master	250	
Assistant masters	240	
Rent	150	
Petty expenses	30	
Custodian of college grounds	20	
		690
Government school:		
Head master	200	
Assistant teachers	200	
Rent	60	
Petty expenses	20	
		480
Wesleyan infant school	50	
St. Andrew's school	50	
Roman Catholic school	50	
Chapel Street school	36	
Adult evening (Kelly's)	20	
Do. (Scoone's)	20	
		226
In Durban high school:		
Head master	250	
Rent	72	
Petty expenses	30	
		352
Government school:		
Headmaster	200	
Assistant teacher	200	
Petty expenses	20	
		420
East End school (private), boys		50
Infant school (Wesleyan)		50
Mansion house (private), girls		50
Adult evening (Doig's)		20

For the purpose of the present report the expenses of maintaining the two high schools may be excluded.

As to the adult evening schools, there are strong reasons for retaining the grants for them. They are the resort of young men anxious to retain or extend the knowledge which they acquired in the ordinary day schools, or of those who are desirous of making up for partial or total lack of schooling when they were younger. The fact that the young man can only take his lessons at night is a proof that he has to work for his bread, and the fees (such as they are) are paid with difficulty out of the lad's earnings when his earnings hardly support him. These schools, with our public reading rooms, an occasional concert, theatrical performance, or public reading, are the only attractions of the better class which our towns present at night to young men.

Excluding then the expenses of the high schools and evening schools, the cost of the schools in Pietermaritzburg and Durban to the government is—

	£	£
Pietermaritzburg:		
Government school	480	
Wesleyan infant	50	
St. Andrew's	50	
Roman Catholic	50	
Chapel street (Wesleyan)	36	
		666
Durban:		
Government school	420	
East end school (private, boys)	50	
Infant school (Wesleyan)	50	
Mansion house (private, girls)	50	
		150
Total		1,236

This sum of 1,236*l.* supports or aids two (mixed) government schools of the common or primary sort, 3 Wesleyan schools, 1 Church of England, 1 Roman Catholic, 1 private boys' school, 1 private girls' school. The private schools both here and at Durban are numerous. I attempted to get returns from them, but few have responded. I have the names of 20 schools (unaided) in Pietermaritzburg, and am informed that at Durban there are as many as 20 girls' schools alone. The teachers of these unaided schools apply to me from time to time to know how they may render themselves eligible for grants in aid.

It seems impossible for the government to extend aid to all these schools, at the same time it is hard to lay down a rule under which one school is to be aided and another not.

NATAL.

I think the duty of supplying the means of education to the children in our cities must be left to their respective municipalities, and it would be better to confine the aims of government as regards education to—

1. Aiding schools in the country districts.
2. Maintaining model schools in the town.
3. Supplying teachers from the model schools to the country schools. To these ends it seems requisite to have in Pietermaritzburg and in Durban—

1st. High school.
2d. Primary boys' school.
3d. Primary girls' school.
4th. Infant school.

The money spent at present on two primary (mixed schools) and seven other schools, denominational and private is (as has been shown) about 1,230*l.* or over 600*l.* a year for each city.

In the present state of the revenue I presume it is hopeless to ask for more than the present expenditure. I would, therefore, leave for the present the consideration of infant schools, as of less importance.

The expenses of the primary schools for boys and girls I estimate thus—

	£	£
Government boys' school:		
Master	200	
Assistant (one)	70	
2 Pupil teachers	24	
Rent	50	
Petty expenses	20	
		364
Government girls' school:		
Mistress	150	
Assistant	50	
2 pupil teachers	18	
Rent	50	
		228

These two schools would cost, according to this estimate—

	£
Boys' school	364
Girls' school	288
Total	652

in each town, or 1,300*l.* for the two towns.

I estimate the expense of an infant school thus:

Mistress	100
Assistant	24
Rent	50
Petty expenses	15
	189

I am the less reluctant to leave out of consideration the infant schools for the present, because if the government is able to begin building school-houses at all in the towns (when the government at present has only one school-house), I suppose the utmost that could be done would not include more than one school-house at a time; and the boys and girls schools would have a prior claim.

The item for pupil teachers is an attempt to supply a want which has been felt by the government already. A sum is at present paid to Mr. Kidd of Pinetown to keep his school there open as a training school for young teachers. The plan has not succeeded because of the expense and trouble of residing at Pinetown away from the teachers home or work. If the present plan were adopted, the sum set down for pupil teachers would be in the nature of exhibitions to be held by the best scholars out of those who are desirous of engaging in the business of teaching in the country schools, and would be a partial means of their support while undergoing a proper course of training.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. WARWICK BROOKS,
Acting Sup. Educ.

The Honourable the
Colonial Secretary, Pietermaritzburg.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Admiral Sir CHARLES ELLIOT, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 33.)

MY LORD DUKE, St. Helena, June 10, 1868.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1867, delayed till this date chiefly by the continued illness of the chief clerk in the secretarial department.

2. It will be observed that there has been no material alteration, so far as the revenue and expenditure are concerned, during the year 1867 compared with the year 1866.

Revenue.

1866 £21,339
1867 £21,983

Expenditure.

1866 £24,052
1867 £24,250

3. In my annual report which accompanied the Blue Book for the year 1866 I had the satisfaction to report that much progress had been made in the restoration of the public buildings against further devastation by the white ant, and I am now enabled to state that, with the exception of the Female Colonial Hospital and the reconstruction of a small building to serve as a girls school, all has been effectively completed needing immediate attention.

4. Your Grace is, however, aware that the Government has not been in a situation to make any advances on easy terms for the restoration of the dwellings under which the great mass of the poorer people are living in this town, and I must not omit to repeat that there are no other reliable means whatever in this Island than the Government may be able to furnish for placing the body of the population under safer shelter. From that point of view I must always consider it to be a matter of regret and anxiety that the loan of 30,000*l.* proposed in 1864 was not negotiated.

5. In my Despatch, No. 18, of the year 1867, it was my duty to report the total destruction of the Government jail in Rupert's Valley, by fire. I also reported that adequate dispositions had been made for the safe custody of the prisoners in the old jail at Jamestown. The military prisoners, however, since this event, are confined in the military cells under the custody of their own officers. With the present claims upon the Government I see but little hope of commencing a new jail for the next two or three years.

6. Before the conclusion of the present year I hope to be able to complete the system of underground drainage from the latrines at the barracks to connect with our own underground sewer in the lower part of the town, proposed in my Despatch No. 3 of 1868.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

24572.

New South Wales.

No. 13.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

The Registrar General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar General's Office,
Sydney, August 1, 1868.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Statistical Register for the year 1867, with the following Report.

PART I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December last was 447,620, being 16,208 or 3¾ per cent. in advance of the numbers of the previous year; the natural increase to the population by the excess of births over deaths being 9,686, and by arrivals over departures 6,522.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

My twelfth Annual Report on vital statistics affords full particulars under this heading, and I will therefore here merely give the total results of the year's registrations.

3,426 marriages were celebrated during the year, being 36 less than those of the previous year.

The births numbered 18,317, and the deaths 8,631; and in 1866 the births were 16,959, and 7,361 deaths were registered.

Immigration.

The arrivals from Great Britain were 2,179—of these 944 came at the public expense, and 1,235 at their own cost. The total outlay amounted to 14,036*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, or at the rate of 14*l.* 7*s.* 4½*d.* per head.

During the last ten years the number of immigrants introduced at the cost of the Government was 32,814; the expenditure for this service amounted to 465,341*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, or an average of 14*l.* 3*s.* 7¼*d.* per head.

Lunatics and Invalids.

The institutions at Tarban and Parramatta had in them, on 31st December, 665 males and 396 females, in all 1,061; or 26 males and 19 females in excess of the numbers of the previous year.

836 or 78·80 per cent. were British born; 122 or 11·50 per cent. were Colonial born; and 103 or 9·70 per cent. were Foreign born.

The ages of these unfortunate creatures run as follows:—

1 to 20 years	55 Patients
20 to 30 „	179 „
30 to 40 „	306 „
40 to 50 „	294 „
50 to 60 „	150 „
60 years and upwards	77 „
In all	1,061

Of the 1,061 patients under restraint and medical treatment, 221 males and 122 females, together 343, are supposed to be curable; and 444 males and 274 females, together 718, are supposed to be so deprived of intellect and reason as to be incurable.

The private lunatic asylum at Cook's River had 10 patients under care at the end of the year.

Charitable Institutions.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

There are now distributed throughout the Colony 36 hospitals, 9 benevolent asylums, 3 lunatic asylums, 7 orphan and industrial schools, including the 3 ragged schools, and 7 miscellaneous institutions; in all 62 charitable establishments.

Hospitals.

In the hospitals, four of which were closed during the year, 4,421 patients received medical treatment—of this number 3,542 were discharged, and 450 have passed from their troubles in this world; 5,825 patients received out-door relief. The receipts amounted to 25,528*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, being 1,938*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* less than the expenditure.

4,010 patients were treated in 1866, of whom 3,098 were discharged, and 454 departed from this world; 4,801 patients received out-door relief. 26,573*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* covered the receipts, and 29,912*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* the expenditure.

Benevolent Asylums.

In these asylums provision was made for 3,277 inmates, including 531 children—of these 1,784 were discharged, and 316 died. Relief was given to 2,604 paupers.

The receipts amounted to 20,483*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenses to 20,461*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*

In 1866, 3,178 persons were provided for, of which number 1,803 were discharged, and 271 died; relief was given to 2,406 paupers.

The receipts were 20,082*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure 21,894*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

Orphan School Lunatic Asylums.

3,113 inmates were in these establishments at the end of the year, being 113 in excess of those in the establishments on 31st December, 1866. The house of the Good Shepherd afforded relief to 771 paupers, and in 1866 to 700. In 1867, the receipts amounted to 64,166*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure to 65,416*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*; and in 1866, the receipts were 51,698*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure 51,477*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.*

The gross receipts for charitable institutions during 1867, amounted to 110,177*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure to 113,344*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.*, against 98,354*l.* 3*s.* 7½*d.* receipts, and 103,283*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.* expenditure in 1866.

PART II.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, AND CRIME.

Ecclesiastical.

Ministers of religion.

438 ministers of religion of all denominations were on the register, or 1 short of the number in 1866.

The expenditure from the Government amounted to 29,154*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Church of England	15,727	3	3
Roman Catholic Church	8,342	7	5
Presbyterian Church	3,277	14	9
Wesleyan Methodist Church	1,807	3	10

Churches and chapels.

The churches and chapels number 650, or 46 more than the year 1866.

Attendance at public worship.

The average number of persons attending public worship was, in—

1866	127,632
1867	135,263
Increase	7,631, or nearly 6· per cent.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sunday Schools.

In these schools 39,512 children were under religious instruction in 1867, and 37,215 children in 1866, the increase being 2,297.

The sexes of the children attending Sabbath schools were, in—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1866 - - -	17,847	19,368	37,215
1867 - - -	19,041	20,471	39,512
Increase - -	1,194	1,103	2,297

Week Day Schools.

Schools.

The number of schools assisted by the state was 651, and the unassisted or private schools numbered 529, making in all 1,180 scholastic institutions in the Colony in the year under review, or 25 in excess of the number recorded in the year 1866.

Orphan Schools.

The children bereft of parents and left upon the mercy of the world numbered 250 in the Protestant Orphan School, and 280 in the Roman Catholic Orphan School; the increase on the year 1866 being 14 and 6 respectively.

The expenditure for the Protestant Orphan School increased from 3,155*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* in 1866 to 3,242*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* in 1867; and for the Roman Catholic Orphan School reduced from 5,176*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* in 1866, to 4,632*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* in 1867.

The asylum for destitute children had the care of 682 children, or 28 more than were in the asylum in 1866.

The receipts in aid of this institution were—

	1866. £	*s.*	*d.*	1867. £	*s.*	*d.*
From Government - -	7,526	12	6	8,689	12	4
From Voluntary Contributions	3,042	4	5	2,892	15	4
Together -	£10,568	16	11	£11,582	7	8

Increase in 1867 - £1,013 10*s.* 9*d.*

Industrial Schools.

Two valuable institutions appear in the return for the first time this year—the Nautical school ship "Vernon," and the Industrial School for girls at Newcastle. These schools have been established with a view to impart to those depraved and evil disposed children who have no fixed place of abode, but wander about the streets and thoroughfares of the Colony, such an instruction as may render them eventually useful members of society, instead of placing them, as heretofore, amongst the lowest of criminals who infest our gaols, which only tended still further to lead them into evil doings.

The Nautical school ship "Vernon" received on board 62 boys, and the Industrial School at Newcastle received 45 girls, making in all 107 children.

The cost of the "Vernon," including payment for vessel and fittings, amounted to 13,422*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure for the girls school amounted to 2,704*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*; in all, 16,127*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

Public Instruction.

On the 1st day of January 1867, the new arrangements for the supervision and management of public instruction came into practical operation, and the results of the year's labours fully prove that its introduction has been crowned with success.

The following tabular statements will bear out this view of the matter:— NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Schools.				Teachers.			Scholars.		
	M.	F.	Mixed.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Year 1866.										
Denominational Schools -	21	19	338	378	305	200	505	14,682	13,027	27,709
National Schools - -	—	—	272	272	279	125	404	10,664	8,594	19,258
Together - -	21	19	610	650	584	325	909	25,346	21,621	46,967
Year 1867.										
Schools under the Council of Education - -	—	3	639	642	629	342	971	26,993	23,048	50,041
Increase - -	—	—	29	—	45	17	62	1,647	1,427	3,074
Decrease - -	21	16	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—

Under the old system each school averaged 72 scholars, and under the new system each school averaged 78 scholars.

The expenditure was as follows:—

	From Government.	From Voluntary Contributions.	Total.
Year 1866.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Denominational Schools - -	40,412 2 1	18,800 3 2	59,212 5 3
National Schools - - -	40,828 15 5	13,424 3 6	54,252 18 11
Together - - -	81,240 17 6	32,224 6 8	113,465 4 2
Year 1867.			
Schools under the Council of Education	86,766 13 8	30,719 8 8	117,486 2 4
Increase - - -	5,525 16 2	—	4,020 18 2
Decrease - - -	—	1,504 18 0	—

In 1867, the State contributions were at the rate of 1*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* per head; and in 1866, 1*d.* per head less.

The voluntary contributions in 1867 averaged 12*s.* 3*d.* per head; and in 1866, 13*s.* 8*d.* per head.

University of Sydney.—This institution numbered 47 matriculated and non-matriculated students, being 9 students in excess of the year 1866.

The Government contributed towards its support 5,000*l.* endowment, and 949*l* 3*s.* 4*d.* came from other sources, together 6,127*l.* 9*s.*, or 245*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* in excess of last year's receipts.

St. Paul's College has 12 students or 1 more than in 1866.

The receipts were, from Government 500*l.* endowment, and from other sources 949*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, in all 1,449*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, or 402*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* in excess of the income of 1866.

St. John's College.—Eight students were receiving tuition, being the same number as returned for last year.

The contributions were, Government aid 458*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and from other sources 416*l.*, together 874*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, or 74*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* more than the receipts of the year previous.

Private Schools.—These schools are dependent entirely upon their own exertions. They numbered 529, and gave employment to 794 teachers, with an attendance of 11,699 scholars. The increase on the previous year being 31 schools, 78 teachers, and 407 scholars.

The total number of scholars under tuition at the end of the year was 63,183, of which 32,971 were boys and 30,212 were girls. The increase on the previous year being 25 schools and 3,589 scholars, of which 1,788 were boys and 1,801 were girls. Total scholars under instruction.

The sum of 126,917*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* was paid by the Treasury in 1867 for the support of educational institutions, being at the rate of 5*s.* 8*d.* per head of the population. In 1866, 104,599*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* was the amount paid, being at the rate of 4*s.* 8*d.* per head. Total amount paid by Government.

Crime.

The criminal returns bear evidence of a decided improvement in the moral state of the Colony during the present year.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Committals.

The commitments for trial fell from 1,255 in 1866 to 1,180 in 1867, the difference being 75 committals, or 0·304 per 1,000 of the population in favour of the latter period.

The ratio per 1,000 of the population at the middle of the year was, in—

1860	- - -	2·070, or 1 in	483
1861	- - -	2·321 „	431
1862	- - -	2·403 „	416
1863	- - -	2·389 „	418
1864	- - -	2·526 „	395
1865	- - -	2·792 „	358
1866	- - -	2·992 „	334
1867	- - -	2·688 „	372

357 cases were set down for trial in the supreme and circuit courts, and 823 cases in the courts of quarter sessions.

Convictions.

Of the 1,180 cases placed upon the calendar for trial, convictions were obtained in 702 cases only, or at the rate of 59· per cent.; this is exactly 20· per cent. short of the year 1866. The ratio of convictions per 1,000 of the population was, in—

1860	- - -	1·224, or 1 in	817
1861	- - -	1·237 „	808
1862	- - -	1·405 „	711
1863	- - -	1·339 „	746
1864	- - -	1·528 „	654
1865	- - -	1·705 „	586
1866	- - -	1·834 „	545
1867	- - -	1·599 „	625

218 cases were tried in the supreme and circuit courts, and 484 cases in the courts of quarter sessions.

Summary Jurisdiction.

The police brought to justice during the year 12,423 males and 3,698 females, in all 16,121, or 117 in excess of the year 1866.

The charges brought against them were—

	1866.		1867.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Offences against the Person -	4,990	2,242	4,785	1,879
„ „ Property -	3,877	721	3,103	594
Drunkenness - - -	3,327	847	4,535	1,225
Totals - -	12,194	3,810	12,423	3,698
Together - -	16,004		16,121	

Both offences against the person and property show a remarkable decrease, but drunkenness shows an unmistakeable increase of 1,586 cases. This increase must be attributed, however, to the fact, that previous to the passing of the Drunkards Punishment Act of 1866 (30 Victoria, No. 5, assented to 24th September), these offenders escaped conviction and punishment, unless the police were able to bring home to them charges such as riotous conduct, vagrancy, &c.

The apprehensions bore the following ratio to the population since 1860 :—

1860 - -	1 in 17
1861 - -	1 „ 21
1862 - -	1 „ 23
1863 - -	1 „ 23
1864 - -	1 „ 22
1865 - -	1 „ 25
1866 - -	1 „ 26
1867 - -	1 „ 27

PART III.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The present year shows a large falling off in the dealings with our commercial relations abroad.

The value placed upon the articles imported and exported seaward have not been so small since the year 1861, viz.:— NEW SOUTH WALES.

Imports and exports.

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1861	6,391,555	5,594,839
1862	9,334,645	7,102,562
1863	8,319,576	6,936,839
1864	9,836,042	8,117,217
1865	9,928,595	8,191,170
1866	8,867,071	8,512,214
1867	6,599,804	6,880,715

Triennial periods.

By taking the mean of the triennial periods, 1862 to 1864 and 1865 to 1867, we find that in the latter period the importations fell short 698,265*l.*, whilst the exportations increased by 475,827, viz.:—

Mean of	Imports. £	Exports. £
1862 to 1864	9,163,421	7,385,539
1865 to 1867	8,465,156	7,861,366

Great Britain.

From Great Britain the value of the goods imported came to 2,203,462*l.* or 1,149,306*l.* less than the year 1866.

British colonies.

From British Colonies the importations amounted to 3,525,986*l.* or 441,960*l.* short of the former year.

Foreign states.

From foreign states the imports were 870,356*l.*, being a decrease of 676,001*l.* on the year 1866.

Decrease in total imports.

The total imports of 1867 compared with 1866 show a decrease of 2,267,267, or 25·56 per cent.

Goods imported, showing decrease.

The imported articles exhibiting the principal decreases were as follows:—

Articles.	1866.	1867.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Apparel and Slops	199,790	70,888	128,902
Gunpowder	17,049	7,987	9,062
Bags and Sacks	29,084	22,322	6,762
Bottled Beer	117,370	84,467	32,903
Butter and Cheese	14,533	8,364	6,169
Candles	52,956	45,456	7,500
Chocolate and Cocoa	5,777	914	4,863
Confections and Preserves	29,920	22,428	7,492
Coin	95,865	4,552	91,313
Cottons	37,048	13,692	23,356
Drugs and Medicines	38,784	24,049	14,735
Earthenware and China	29,791	13,428	16,363
Fish	28,431	16,274	12,157
Fruit	81,238	55,685	25,553
Furniture	28,104	17,259	10,845
Glass	29,232	21,092	8,140
Gold Dust	2,142,189	1,810,826	331,363
Grain	431,451	240,654	190,797
Haberdashery	41,318	23,830	17,488
Hardware	165,881	89,341	76,540
Hats, Caps, and Bonnets	55,065	37,420	17,645
Hosiery and Gloves	40,959	16,984	23,975
Leather—Boots and Shoes	153,346	108,790	44,556
Linen and Drapery	1,015,433	611,184	404,249
Malt	23,822	15,964	7,858
Military and Naval Stores	30,265	21,552	8,713
Oilmen's Stores	99,621	49,073	50,548
Paint	12,395	5,928	6,467
Potatoes	60,312	45,073	15,239
Provisions	35,963	20,518	15,445
Saddlery and Harness	51,493	28,544	22,949
Silks	39,348	19,111	20,237
Slates—Unmanufactured	5,522	1,528	3,994
Stationery—Paper	66,846	44,968	21,878
Sugar	614,848	546,104	68,744
Tallow	54,525	33,451	21,074
Tea	435,555	318,468	117,087
Wine	128,202	69,433	58,769
Woollens	75,472	31,992	43,480
Wool	350,462	342,981	7,481

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Exports.

The exports show a falling off of 1,631,499*l.* or 19·16 per cent., viz. :—

	1866.	1867.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
To Great Britain -	3,162,615	3,111,108	51,507
„ British Colonies -	5,064,413	3,593,038	1,471,375
„ Foreign States -	285,186	176,569	108,617
Total - -	8,512,214	6,880,715	1,631,499

Goods exported, showing decrease.

The following articles exhibit the principal decreases :—

Articles.	1866.	1867.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Apparel and slops	10,705	4,301	6,404
Bags and sacks	8,251	3,374	4,877
Beer	34,508	22,359	12,149
Butter and cheese	94,885	43,771	51,114
Coal	300,588	253,259	47,329
Coin—Gold	2,815,437	2,041,383	774,054
Copper	62,778	38,801	23,977
Drugs and medicines	28,410	15,750	12,660
Flour	207,632	77,899	129,733
Fruit	64,495	45,288	19,207
Furniture	11,668	5,753	5,915
Grain—Maize	188,291	92,105	96,186
Hardware	99,568	56,809	42,759
Hay	13,335	3,201	10,134
Molasses and Treacle	20,194	10,937	9,257
Oilmen's Stores	53,222	32,061	21,161
Potatoes	16,146	7,247	8,899
Provisions	47,308	34,836	12,472
Skins	106,102	68,334	37,768
Specimen of Colonial Produce for Exhibition	14,855	300	14,555
Spirits	78,074	51,183	26,891
Stationery and Books	16,099	10,151	5,948
Sugar	187,769	177,868	9,901
Tea	241,723	135,739	105,984
Timber	26,080	19,584	6,496
Toys and Fancy Goods	21,924	12,399	9,525
Wine	57,022	20,916	36,106
Wool	2,409,094	2,340,368	68,726

Imports and exports per head of population.

The values of the goods imported were at the rate of 15*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* per head of the population, and the exports 15*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per head.

Cause of discontinuance of returns of imports and exports overland.

These returns do not include the overland traffic, as directions were given to the customs officers to discontinue keeping an account of the imports and exports, viâ the River Murray, from the date of the Border Treaty—namely, 12th January 1867. Were the returns furnished as heretofore the gross results of the year's transactions above indicated would be considerably augmented.

Shipping.

As with the returns of imports and exports, so with the shipping, a corresponding decrease will be observed.

Shipping inwards.

The arrivals decreased from 2,099 vessels, of a burden of 730,354 tons in 1866, to 1,868 vessels of 646,970 tons measurement in 1867 ; of these there came from—

	1866.		1867.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Great Britain -	83	73,020	62	57,143	21	15,877
British Colonies -	1,790	578,865	1,674	547,542	116	31,323
Foreign State -	226	78,469	132	42,285	94	36,184
Totals -	2,099	730,354	1,868	646,970	231	83,384

Shipping outwards.

Vessels outwards numbered 2,104, of a burden of 726,721 tons, against 2,259 vessels of 784,381 tons in 1866.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

They were bound for the following countries :—

	1866.		1867.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Great Britain -	41	36,138	44	41,295
British Colonies -	1,799	561,155	1,727	536,691
Foreign States -	419	187,088	333	148,735
Totals -	2,259	784,381	2,104	726,721

These figures represent a decrease, compared with 1866, of 155 vessels of an aggregate of 57,660 tons.

Vessels built.

Thirty-six vessels were built during the year of the measurement of 1,882 tons; they are described as follows :—

	No.	Tons.
Brigs - - -	1	157
Brigantines - -	6	509
Schooners - -	10	557
Ketches - - -	8	244
Cutters - -	4	111
Steamers - -	7	304

In 1866 the number of vessels built was 43 of 3,031 tons measurement.

Twenty-six ship building establishments were returned. This number is 2 less than was recorded in 1866.

PART IV.

MILLS AND MANUFACTORIES.

Mills.

Mills for grinding and dressing grain show an increase of 29 over the year 1866, the increase is chiefly in the mills worked by steam, viz. :—

	1866.	1867.	Increase.
Steam mills -	130	155	25
Water „ - -	13	15	2
Wind „ - -	10	10	—
Horse „ - -	6	8	2
Totals -	159	188	29

Manufactories, &c.

Manufactories, works, &c., show a decrease of 115. The number in 1867 was 2,274, and 2,389 in 1866. Six years ago the Colony numbered 859 only.

Woollens.

Woollens.—Of late years there appears to have been a greater demand for colonial tweed, which for durability is scarcely equalled. 175,348 yards of woollens were manufactured in 1867, against 172,720 yards in 1866 and 145,707 yards in 1865. The three years manufactures amounted to 493,775 yards, or 208,605 yards more than the previous triennial period.

Soap and candles.

Soap and Candles.—The quantity of soap manufactured was 77,773 cwt. in 1867, and 68,456 cwt. in 1866, the increase being 9,317 cwt. 26,206 cwt. of candles were manufactured in 1867, or 2,886 cwt. in excess of 1866.

Thirty establishments were in operation, or one less than the former year.

Tobacco.

Tobacco.—But slow progress appears to be made in the manufacture of this article.

The number of establishments in operation, and the quantity manufactured during the last five years, were--

	No.	Quantity. Cwts.
1863 - - - -	31	4,808
1864 - - - -	39	8,619½
1165 - - - - -	33	8,006
1866 - - - -	37	7,755
1867 - - - - -	35	6,933

Tallow and lard.

Tallow and Lard.—36,154 cwt. of tallow was produced against 39,416 cwt. in 1866.

The quantity of lard produced was 2,352 lbs., or 3,352 lbs. less than the produce of the year 1866.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

54,862 sheep and 3,842 cattle were slaughtered in 1867 for boiling-down purposes, and in 1866, 2,868 horned cattle only; 358 pigs were killed against 1,026 in 1866.

A large quantity of the tallow produced is from the refuse from butchers shops in the Metropolitan district.

Boiling-down establishments.

There were 40 boiling-down establishments, or five less than the number stated in the return for 1866.

PART V.

Production.

Gold received by escort.

The Branch Royal Mint received by escort from our gold fields 222,715 ozs., of the value of 863,797*l.*, apportioned as follows:—

Districts.	Weight. Ozs.	Value. £
Western - - -	134,448	521,963
Southern - - - -	68,941	267,858
Northern - - -	19,326	73,976

The receipts compared with 1866 show a falling off of 18,774 ozs. of the value of 64,478*l.*

The gold averaged 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per oz.

Miners rights.

The number of miners rights issued was 13,534, and in 1866 13,905.

Yield of gold.

The quantity of gold received into the Mint for coinage, and the raw material which has passed through the Customs for exportation, together will give a pretty fair idea of the state of our gold fields; with this view I append the following table, embracing three years, from which it will be observed that the yield of the precious ore has considerably fallen off:—

	1865.		1866.		1867.	
	ozs.	£	ozs.	£	ozs.	£
Mint - - -	280,810	1,077,905	241,489	928,275	222,715	863,797
Customs - - -	41,969	161,060	20,793	77,837	12,328	46,015
Totals - -	322,779	1,238,965	262,282	1,006,112	235,043	909,812

Average wages of miners.

If the productions of the gold fields, as above stated, were equally distributed amongst the miners, their wages would average, in 1865, 86*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* per annum; in 1866, 72*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* per annum; and in 1867, 67*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* per annum.

Coal Mines.

Coal.

770,012 tons were raised at the mines, or 4,226 tons less than the operations of last year.

The value of the coal raised amounted to 342,655*l.*, or 18,606*l.* in excess of 1866, the price placed thereon being at a higher rate.

Coal exported.

Among the colonial productions this forms one of our chief items of export, and no less than 473,357 tons, of the value of 253,259*l.* found its way to distant parts of the globe, as follows:—

	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
Victoria - - -	145,833	69,220
New Zealand - - -	79,576	41,255
Tasmania - - -	10,919	5,887
South Australia - - -	73,289	28,202
United States - - -	22,118	13,546
Singapore - - -	25,885	13,432
Shanghai - - -	54,774	39,297
Batavia - - -	15,400	9,341
Hong Kong - - -	9,807	9,858
Sixteen other places - -	35,756	23,221
Total - -	473,357	253,259

Copper.

Copper.

The quantity and value of copper ore raised in mines in 1867 will be gathered from the following statement:—

Situation.	Quantity raised.	Value.
	Tons.	£
Bathurst—Green Swamp	30	200
Goulburn—Currawang -	2,500	13,750
Orange { Cadia - -	120	8,400
Orange { Icely - -	176	11,466
Yass—Woolgarlo -	60	1,500
Total - -	2,886	35,316

Iron.

Iron.

The Fitz Roy iron mine was inactive.

Oil.

Kerosene shale.

About 4,000 tons of Kerosene shale was raised at the Hartley, Kerosene, and Paraffine Oil Company's Mine of the estimated value of 15,000*l.* The weekly production of Crude oil is estimated at 1,000 gallons, or 52,000 gallons for the year, of the value of 5,000*l.*

Western Kerosene Oil Company.—About 79 tons of Kerosene shale was raised of the value of 249*l.* The company has not yet commenced active operations; the quantity raised is only a sample of the mineral.

1,872 tons of Kerosene shale was taken from the mine at Wollongong, of the value of 2,708*l.*

Total value of all minerals.

The estimated total value of all minerals raised at the various mines in 1867 may be summed up thus:—

	£
Gold - - - -	909,812
Coal - - - - -	342,655
Copper - - -	35,316
Kerosene Shale - - -	17,957
Total - -	1,305,740

Agriculture.

Occupiers.

From the year 1864 up to the present time a progressive increase is to be observed in the number of occupiers of land, excluding those for pastoral purposes.

In the year ended—

31st March 1864, the number was - -	19,361
Increase in 1864–5 - -	2,179
31st March 1865, total number - -	21,540
Increase in 1865–6 - -	969
31st March 1866, total number - -	22,509
Increase in 1866–7 - -	2,120
31st March 1867, total number - -	24,629
Increase in 1867–8 - -	1,246
31st March 1868, total number - -	25,875

The increase in four years has been 6,514 occupiers, or 33·64 per cent.

Holdings.

The total extent of holdings (exceeding one acre) increased from 7,448,200 acres in 1866–7 to 7,737,651 acres in 1867–8, the increase being 289,451 acres, or 3·88 per cent.

The fixity of tenure holdings decreased from 4,916,916$\frac{3}{4}$ acres in 1866–7 to 4,577,029$\frac{1}{2}$ acres in 1867–8, the decrease being 339,887$\frac{1}{4}$ acres, or 6·91 per cent.; whilst the lands

NEW SOUTH WALES.

held under lease increased from 2,531,238¾ acres in 1866–7 to 3,160,621¾ acres in 1867–8, or 629,338 acres, or 24·86 per cent., in excess of the previous year.

Holdings enclosed, but not in cultivation, increased in the following ratio: freehold lands 2·51 per cent. and leaseholds 32·64 per cent., viz.:—

	Freehold. Acres.	Leasehold. Acres.
1867–8 - -	1,906,415¾	1,128,259¼
1866–7 - -	1,523,620½	850,581¼
Increase -	382,795¼	277,678
	or, 2·51 per cent.	or, 32·64 per cent.

Unenclosed freeholds decreased from 3,100,535¼ acres in 1866–7 to 2,412,822 acres in 1867–8, the decrease being 687,713¼ acres, or 22·11 per cent. Unenclosed leasehold lands increased from 1,520,613¼ to 1,876,990¼ acres, being 356,377 acres or 23·43 per cent. in excess of the previous year.

Acreage under crop.

413,164 acres were under crop, and in 1866–7, 451,225 acres. This shows a decrease on the previous year of 38,061 acres, or 8·43 per cent.

Wheat.

Seed for wheat covered an area of 149,142¼ acres, against 175,033¾ acres in 1866–7, the decrease amounting to 25,891½ acres, or 14·79 per cent.

The produce was 1,433,807 bushels or 792,220 bushels less than the previous year.

The produce per acre realized nine bushels 36 lbs.; and the year before 12 bushels 43 lbs.

Maize.

115,522¾ acres were sown with maize for grain, against 119,519 acres the year before, the decrease being 3,996¼ acres, or 3·34 per cent.

The crop produced 3,132,505 bushels, or 27 bushels 6 lbs. per acre; and in 1886–7 3,878,064 bushels, or 32 bushels 26 lbs. per acre.

Barley.

Barley covered land to the extent of 5,140½ acres, or 1,070½ acres less than the previous year.

The produce was 62,392 bushels, or 29,349 bushels short of the year 1866–7.

Oats.

The area covered with oats was 13,142½ acres against 14,914½ the year previous, the decrease being 1,772 acres.

156,965 bushels were produced; and in 1866–7 304,028 lbs., the difference being 147,063 bushels.

Cotton.

76 acres were laid out in cotton, from which 13,680 lbs. were gathered. No attention was paid to its cultivation the year previous.

Rye, millet, and sorghum, &c.

Rye shows an increase in the land under crop, but a falling off in the produce; Millet has slightly decreased in acreage and produce, and Sorghum and Imphee has increased, viz.:—

Year ended.	Rye.		Millet.		Sorghum, &c.	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Cwts.
31 March 1867 - - -	1,571½	19,968	197½	2,133½	173¾	8,915
31 March 1868 - - -	1,879	15,569½	192¾	1,963½	234½	9,480
Increase - -	307½	—	—	—	61¾	565
Decrease - - -	—	4,398½	4¾	170	—	—

Potatoes.

The potato crop covered 15,440 acres against 18,809¾ acres the year previous; the falling off is 3,369¾ acres, or 17·91 per cent.

The produce was 33,482½ tons against 43,869½ tons the year before; this shows a decrease of 10,387 tons, or 23·68 per cent.

In the year 1862–3 an important addition was made to the returns by the cultivation of cotton; the following year another valuable addition was made to the Colony's productions by the growing of sugar cane, and this year the novel feature of rice growing has introduced itself. On the Paterson, in the county of Durham, seven acres were planted and produced 7,000 lbs., on an average of 1,000 lbs. to the acre. Half an acre also was planted in the district of Wellingrove, but no produce was given in the returns furnished by the collectors.

Rice.

Tobacco.

626¾ acres were planted with tobacco, and in 1866–7, 1,326¼ acres; although a decrease of 699½ acres is to be observed in the acreage under crop, it is satisfactory to find a large increase of 3,557¼ cwt. in the produce, viz., 6,035 cwt. against 2,477¾ cwt. the year previous.

Hay covered 74,346 acres, or 396¾ acres less than the previous period; the produce weighed 91,869¾ tons, or 26,140¼ tons less than 1866-7. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following table will afford a view of the steady progress made in the cultivation of the grape vine for wine making during the last quinquennial period. Vines.

Year ending 31st March.	Acres.	Wine produced.	Brandy manfactured.
		Gallons.	Gallons.
1864	880¼	136,976	2,033
1865	945¼	161,298¾	3,077
1866	1,243¼	168,123	1,439½
1867	1,357½	242,183	3,176
1868	1,483½	285,283	3,856½
TOTALS	- -	993,863¾	13,582

The produce per acre was, in— Produce per acre.

1864	155¾ gallons.
1865	170¾ „
1866	135¼ „
1867	178½ „
1868	192¼ „

In 1866-7, 573½ acres were cultivated for table use, and produced 668¼ tons of fruit; and this year 631½ acres gave 700½ tons. Vines for table use.

416½ acres of vines, or 66½ acres in excess of last year, were unproductive.

Pastoral.

From the returns at hand it appears that horses, sheep,* and pigs show an increase, whilst the number of horned cattle depasturing the Colony has fallen of, viz. :— Live stock.

	31st March 1867.	31st March 1868.	Increase.	Decrease.
Horses	278,437	280,201	1,764	—
Horned cattle	1,771,809	1,728,427	—	43,382
Sheep	11,562,155	13,909,574	2,347,419	—
Pigs	137,915	173,168	35,253	—

Supposing that each description of stock was equally divided amongst the people, each person would possess about ⅔ of a horse, a little more than 3¾ head of cattle, 31 sheep, and about ⅓ of a pig.

From the latest returns at hand † it will be observed that the whole of the Australian Colonies, including New Zealand, muster 636,674 horses, 3,867,678 horned cattle, 46,812,859 sheep, and 598,430 pigs, making a grand total of 51,915,641 head of stock of all descriptions, as detailed in the following return :— Distribution of stock in Australian group.

Name of Colony.	Description of Stock.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	280,201	1,728,427	*13,909,574	173,168
Victoria	130,544	644,794	9,338,454	137,448
South Australia	74,228	122,200	4,477,445	89,304
Queensland	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142
Tasmania	23,299	86,598	1,742,914	54,287
Western Australia	9,555	32,476	260,136	10,991
New Zealand	65,704	312,829	8,418,579	115,090
GENERAL TOTAL	636,674	3,867,678	46,812,859	598,430

* The number of sheep depasturing in the colony on the 1st January 1868, as set forth in the returns made by owners to the clerks of petty sessions, under the Act 30 Vict., No. 16, was 15,819,831 ; to which should be added 180,169 sheep estimated as the number possessed by owners of 500 and under, who are not required to make returns ; the two together will give a total of 16,000,000 of sheep depasturing in the colony. This number is 2,090,426 sheep in excess of the collections made by the police.

† The returns for New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania are made up to 31 March 1868, those for Queensland to 31 December 1867, those for Western Australia are for the year 1860, and those for New Zealand are for the year 1867.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Per-centage of stock.

Of the total number of stock of all descriptions depasturing in the Australian Colonies :—

New South Wales produces	-	16,091,370 or 31·00	per cent.
Victoria	„	- 10,251,240 or 19·74	„
Queensland	„	- 9,677,396 or 18·64	„
New Zealand	„	- 8,912,202 or 17·17	„
South Australia	„	- 4,763,177 or 9·17	„
Tasmania	„	- 1,907,098 or 3·67	„
Western Australia	„	- 313,158 or 0·60	„

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

Turning now to the monetary and financial affairs of the Colony, we come to taxes, duties, &c., the working of our Banking Institutions, Branch Royal Mint, Railways, Electric Telegraphs, Post Offices, and the Money Order System, and the Public Finances.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

Expiry and repeal of Acts.

The only material change that has taken place in the taxes, duties, &c. is the expiry on 31st December of the Package Act of 1865, and the repeal by Act 31 Vict., No. 8 (20th November 1867), of the Act 25 Vict., No. 3 (22d November 1861), imposing a duty of 10*l.* per head on all Chinese male passengers arriving in the Colony.

Banking Institutions.

Banks.

Nine Banking Institutions were in operation.

From 6 to 10 per cent. per annum was the rate of discount on local bills.

The maximum purchase rate of exchange on bills on London was 1 per cent. premium, or ¼ per cent. in advance of last year. The minimum purchase rate was 1½ per cent. discount, the same as in the previous year. The maximum selling rate was 1½ per cent. premium, or ½ per cent. less than in 1866. The minimum selling rate both this and last year was par.

Interest was allowed to depositors at the following rates :—

On fixed deposits for	3	months,	3 and 4	per cent.
„	6	„	5 and 6	„
„	12	„	5 to 6½	„

Coin and Bullion.

The coffers of the Banks and Mint contained on the 31st December, coin and bullion to the value of 1,781,817*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, or 425,040*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, or nearly 31¼ per cent. in excess of last year's amount.

Bank Notes.

On the 31st December the banks had in circulation notes to the amount of 664,818*l.*, or 9,029*l.* or 1·34 per cent. less than in 1866.

The years average was 531,516*l.*, and the year previous 674,507*l.*

Liabilities and Assets.

In the quarter ended 31st December 1866, the Banks Assets exceeded their liabilities to the amount of 3,978,447*l.*, and for the same period of the year 1867 by the sum of 3,668,105*l.*, as follows :—

	1866. £	1867. £
Liabilities - -	6,956,584	6,906,466
Assets - - -	10,935,031	10,574,571
Excess of Assets -	3,978,447	3,668,105

From this it will be seen that the liabilities have lessened by 50,118*l.*, and the assets have fallen short by 360,460*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

Deposits have increased at the rate of 1·96 per cent., viz.:— Deposits.

	£
Quarter ended 31st December 1866 - -	6,004,013
„ „ 1867 - - -	6,121,834
Increase - - -	117,821

Notes and bills discounted and all other debts due to the banks were—

	£
Quarter ended 31st December 1866 - -	7,458,099
„ „ 1867 - -	6,979,101
Decrease - - -	478,998

From 7 to 17½ per cent., including in some cases a bonus, were the rates per annum of last dividend declared. Dividend.

7,755,555*l.* was the amount of capital paid up to 31st December.

Savings Banks.

Both the number of depositors and the amount of deposits on the books of the Savings Bank on the 31st December show an increase on the former year, viz.: Deposits, &c.

	1866.	1867.	Increase.
Number of depositors - -	17,576	18,487	911
Amount of deposits - -	£707,815	711,246	3,431

The number of depositors increased a little over 5¾ per cent., whilst the amount of deposits increased barely ½ per cent.

Depositors under 20*l.* increased 8·83 per cent. in number, and 7·61 per cent. in the amount of their deposits; between 20*l.* and under 50*l.* they increased 6·60 per cent. in number, and 7·82 per cent. in amount of deposits; between 50*l.* and 100*l.* they increased 0·85 per cent. in number, and 1·70 per cent. in amount of deposits; between 100*l.* and 200*l.* the depositors decreased 3·80 per cent. in number, and 4·52 per cent. in amount of deposits; between 200*l.* and 300*l.* they fell off 17·82 per cent. in number, and 18·84 per cent. in amount of deposits; depositors of 300*l.* and upwards increased 9·43 per cent. in number, and 5·46. per cent. in amount of deposits, as follows:— Increase in depositors, &c.

	Number of Depositors.				Amount of Deposits.			
	1866.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.	1866.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.
					£	£	£	£
Under £20 - -	8,298	9,031	733	—	61,256	65,919	4,663	—
£20 to £50 - -	3,907	4,165	258	—	123,608	133,285	9,677	—
£50 to £100 - -	2,824	2,848	24	—	197,590	200,954	3,364	—
£100 to £200 -	2,393	2,302	—	91	272,661	261,318	—	11,343
£200 to £300 -	101	83	—	18	23,894	19,392	—	4,502
£300 and upwards -	53	58	5	—	28,806	30,378	1,572	—
TOTALS -	17,576	18,487	1,020	109	707,815	711,246	19,276	15,845

The amount of deposits at the various Penny Banks was 5,978*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* Penny Banks.

The total amount of deposits to each depositor averaged 38*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* per head, and in 1866 40*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

The proportion the depositors bore to the estimated population was 1 in 24, being the same as last year.

Five per cent. was the rate of interest paid to depositors up to 200*l.*, beyond this sum no interest is allowed.

Seven per cent. per annum was the amount charged for loans on mortgages, &c.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Branch Royal Mint.

Gold received for coinage.

The quantity of gold dust or bullion received into the Branch Royal Mint for coinage shows a falling off of 109,641 ozs. of the value of 434,554*l.*, compared with the previous year, viz. :—

	Weight, ozs.	Value. £
1866 - - -	739,363	2,935,923
1867 - - -	629,722	2,501,369
Decrease -	109,641	434,554

Gold from Australian colonies.

With the exception of Queensland the receipts of gold from the Australian Colonies show a large falling off, as follows :—

Countries.	1866.		1867.		Decrease.		Increase.	
	Ounces.	Value.	Ounces.	Value.	Ounces.	Value.	Ounces.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
New South Wales -	269,240	1,035,513	259,557	1,005,570	9,683	29,943	—	—
Victoria - -	152,524	627,832	100,030	414,555	52,494	213,277	—	—
New Zealand - -	290,992	1,172,307	240,285	968,817	50,707	203,490	—	—
Queensland - -	20,713	77,813	27,481	103,624	—	—	6,768	25,811
Tasmania - -	1,179	4,505	391	1,357	788	3,148	—	—
California - -	—	—	378	1,344	—	—	378	1,344
Coin - - -	4,715	17,953	1,600	6,102	3,115	11,851	—	—
Totals -	739,363	2,935,923	629,722	2,501,369	116,787	461,709	7,146	27,155

Coin issued.

The issue of coin was—

	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Total Value. £
In 1866 - -	2,911,000	—	2,911,000
In 1867 - -	2,370,000	62,000	2,401,000
Decrease -	541,000	—	510,000
Increase -	—	62,000	—

Bullion issued.

There was issued in bullion—

	Ozs.	Value. £
In 1866 - - - -	11,114	44,732
In 1867 - - -	22,666	91,854
Increase - - -	11,552	47,122

Total value of coin and bullion.

The total value of coin and bullion issued was 462,878*l.* short of 1866, viz. :—

	£
1866 - - -	2,955,732
1867 - - -	2,492,854
	462,878

Total receipt of gold dust and issue of coin and bullion.

6,214,391 ounces of gold dust or bullion have been received by the mint for coinage since its opening on the 14th May 1855, and coin and bullion have been issued to the value of 24,349,427*l.*

262,410*l.* is the total amount of revenue derived by the mint for the same period (nearly twelve years and a half).

The revenue for the year 1867 was 20,170*l.* 7*s.*, or 4,840*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* less than in 1866.

Public Accounts.

Revenue. Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
The balance at the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, 31st December 1866, was -	633,303	15	1
The receipts in the year 1867 amounted to -	2,012,041	11	4
Making the total Revenue Account -	2,645,345	6	5

Disbursements. Disbursements.

	£	s.	d.
The payments in the year 1867 on account of the Consolidated Revenue Fund were -	2,225,075	3	5
The balance at the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Account on 31st December 1867 being - - - - -	420,270	3	0
Making total Revenue Account -	2,645,345	6	5

The receipts were at the rate of 4*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* per head of the population, and the disbursements at the rate of 4*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* Receipts, &c. per head of population.

A comparative table showing the increase and decrease of the several items of revenue and receipts for the years 1866–67 will be found upon reference to pages 181 to 184 of the Statistical Register; a statement of disbursements under each head of service will also be seen at pages 185 to 189.

Public Debt.

	£
On the 31st December 1866 debentures and treasury bills were in circulation to the amount of -	6,418,030
The receipts in 1867 in aid of Loans Fund were -	607,200
Total - - - - -	7,025,230
Paid off - - - - -	107,600
Leaving outstanding on 31st December 1867 -	6,917,630

Loans.

Railways.

Passenger Traffic.

409,280 passengers were conveyed by the four different lines of railway in 1867, being a reduction of 259,050 or 38·76 per cent. on the numbers of the previous year.

First-class carriages seated 34,148 passengers, and the second-class carriages 375,132, or 91·65 per cent. of the total number.

The passenger traffic on the Northern line decreased 44·66 per cent., on the Southern line 35·81 per cent., on the Western line 33·67 per cent., and on the Richmond line 37·83 per cent., as follows:—

Lines.	Passengers. 1866.	Passengers. 1867.	Decrease.
Northern - -	233,824	129,383	104,441 or 44·66 per cent.
Southern - - -	340,496	218,541	121,954½ or 35·81 „
Western - -	70,532½	46,779½	23,753 or 33·67 „
Richmond - -	23,447½	14,576	8,871½ or 37·83 „
Totals -	668,330	409,280	259,050 or 38·76 per cent.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Railway receipts.

The following table will show the railway receipts, working expenses, and net earnings of each line during the last two years :—

Railways.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.
	For Coaching.	For Rents, &c.	For Goods.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Line :—						
1866 - -	21,642	5,256	34,789	61,987	39,853	22,134
1867 - - -	21,116	1,022	37,337	59,475	40,373	19,102
Increase - -	—	—	2,548	—	520	—
Decrease -	826	4,234	—	2,512	—	3,032
Southern Line :—						
1866 - - -	40,463	1,905	34,526	76,894	53,870	23,024
1867 - - -	44,994	3,127	46,790	94,911	63,378	31,533
Increase - -	4,531	1,222	12,264	18,017	9,508	8,509
Western Line :—						
1866 - - -	12,141	83	11,435	23,659	6,794	16,865
1867 - - -	13,704	165	15,853	29,722	8,713	21,009
Increase -	1,563	82	4,418	6,063	1,919	4,144
Richmond Line :—						
1866 - - -	3,754	91	2,149	5,994	5,820	440
1867 - - -	3,387	48	1,528	4,963	4,860	103
Decrease - -	367	43	621	1,031	960	337
Totals of all Lines in 1866 -	78,300	7,335	82,899	168,534	106,337	62,197
Totals of all Lines in 1867 -	83,201	4,363	101,508	189,072	117,324	71,748
Increase -	4,901	—	18,609	20,538	10,987	9,551
Decrease - -	—	2,972	—	—	—	—

Receipts, &c. on all lines.

From the above statement it will be observed that the receipts on the—

Northern Line—

For coaching decreased by 826*l.*, or 3·76 per cent.
For rents, &c. decreased by 4,234*l.*, or 80·55 per cent.
For goods increased by 2,548*l.*, or 7·32 per cent.
The total receipts decreased by 2,512*l.*, or 4·05 per cent.
The working expenses increased by 520*l.*, or 1·30 per cent.
The net earnings decreased by 3,032*l.*, or 13·69 per cent.

Southern Line—

For coaching increased by 4,531*l.*, or 11·19 per cent.
For rents, &c. increased by 1,222*l.*, or 64·14 per cent.
For goods increased by 12,264*l.*, or 35·52 per cent.
Total receipts increased by 18,017*l.*, or 23·43 per cent.
The working expenses increased by 9,508*l.*, or 17·65 per cent.
The net earnings increased by 8,509*l.*, or 36·95 per cent.

Western Line—

For coaching increased by 1,563*l.*, or 12·87 per cent.
For rents, &c. increased by 82*l.*, or 98·79 per cent.
For goods increased by 4,418*l.*, or 38·63 per cent.
Total receipts increased by 6,063*l.*, or 25·62 per cent.
The working expenses increased by 1,919*l.*, or 28·24 per cent.
The net earnings increased by 4,144*l.*, or 24·57 per cent.

Richmond Line—

For coaching decreased by 367*l.*, or 9·77 per cent.
For rents, &c. decreased by 43*l.*, or 47·25 per cent.
For goods decreased by 621*l.*, or 28·87 per cent.
Total receipts decreased by 1,031*l.*, or 17·20 per cent.
Working expenses decreased by 960*l.*, or 16·49 per cent.
Net earnings decreased by 337*l.*, or 76·59 per cent.

That the total receipts on all lines—
For coaching increased by 4,901*l.*, or 6·25 per cent.
For rents, &c. decreased by 2,972*l.*, or 40·59 per cent.
For goods increased by 18,609*l.*, or 22·44 per cent.
Total receipts increased by 20,538*l.*, or 12·18 per cent.
Working expenses increased by 10,987*l.*, or 10·33 per cent.
Net earnings increased by 9,551*l.*, or 15·35 per cent.

Electric Telegraphs.

Four new lines of communication have been added to the returns this year, of 221 miles in length.

There are now open for the transmission of messages 67 lines of 3,567 miles in total length.

Telegrams were sent to the number of 130,447, being 13,076 messages short of the previous year; this has had the effect of reducing the receipts by 2,519*l.*, viz.:—

	£
1866	30,698
1867	28,179
Decrease	2,519

The amount expended on the construction of the several lines of telegraph was—

	£
Up to 31st December 1866	153,211
Cost of new lines	7,585
Total cost up to 31st December 1867	160,796

Postal.

The number of post offices has increased from 455 in 1866 to 477 in 1867, and the postal lines show an extension of 912 miles, making the total length 12,255 miles. Post offices and lines.

582 persons were employed, and 547 the year preceding. 6,748,356 letters were posted, of which 1,147,332 were foreign, 5,143,164 inland, and 457,860 town delivery. Persons employed.

The letters posted, compared with 1866, show an increase of 69,985, or a little better than 1 per cent. Letters.

Newspapers posted show a falling off of 615,280, or 13·63 per cent. Newspapers.

The numbers were 4,513,185 in 1866, and 3,897,905 in 1867.

Packets and book parcels have fallen off from 249,939 in 1866 to 189,297, showing a decrease of 60,642, or 24·27 per cent. Packets.

The expenditure * exceeds the income by 6,763*l.*, viz.:— Revenue, &c. Expenditure.

	£
Expenditure	89,995
Income	83,232
Decrease	6,763

Money Orders.

Eight new branches have been opened, making a total of 120 offices in the Colony at the end of the year. Offices.

The number of orders issued has increased from 41,974 in 1866 to 60,858 in 1867, the increase being 18,884, or 44·98 per cent. Orders issued.

Accommodation for transmission by this arrangement was afforded to the amount of 240,062*l.*, or 41,814*l.* or 21·09 per cent. more than in 1866.

53,625 orders were paid, being an increase of 18,231, or 51·50 per cent. over the year previous. Orders paid.

Cash was paid to the value of 210,321*l.* against 168,828*l.* in the former year, the increase being 41,493*l.*, or 24·57 per cent.

During the four years ending 31st December 1867 153,179 orders were issued, amounting in value to 673,543*l.*, and 129,268 orders of the value of 571,859*l.* had been paid. Results of 4 years.

* Includes the estimated outstanding liabilities for the year.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PART VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Works.

Considerably over three quarters of a million of money was expended upon the public works, &c. of the Colony in the year 1867, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Railways	551,246	5	5
Electric telegraphs	10,842	1	2
Roads and bridges	110,341	13	10
Harbours and rivers	45,418	1	2
Dry dock	5,422	6	8
Public buildings	86,686	0	9
Total	809,956	9	0

The above expenditure being inclusive of that under loans.
Furniture for the various offices cost 2,173*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

Meteorology.

The following table will give the results of the observations for the year, taken at the Government Observatory, Sydney:—

Mean of the year—

Barometer—	
Mean height	30·009
Diurnal range	0·077
Wind—	
Prevailing direction	W.N.W.
Total velocity	87,176
Mean pressure	0·7
Temperature—Shade—	
Mean—9· 3· 9·	63·9
Maximum	71·2
Minimum	57·4
Range	13·9
Mean	64·3
Sun—Maximum	113·7
Grass—Minimum	52·0
Humidity 0–100—	
Mean—9· 3· 9·	70·6
Maximum	85·4
Minimum	59·8
Mean pressure of vapour	·443
Mean dew point	54·6
Total sum of rain in inches	59·68
Total sum of evaporation in inches	48·449
Ozone 0–10—	
Day	4·2
Night	5·7
Mean amount	4·6
Cloudy sky 0–10	5·0

The information relative to the country stations is too incomplete for tabulating.

Mortgages—Real Estate.

The amount lent upon real estate securities during 1867 was 656,108*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, or 25,873*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* less than the amount invested in 1866.

The number and amount of mortgages on land during the last two years are as follows:—

	1866.				1867.			
	No.	Amount. £	s.	d.	No.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Lent on town lands	466	261,086	9	0	505	239,944	3	4
Lent on suburban lands	252	70,940	18	10	291	86,009	17	6
Lent on town and country lands conjointly	32	65,298	17	2	53	96,200	18	1
Lent on country lands	457	284,655	13	6	343	233,953	3	0
Totals	1,207	681,981	18	6	1,192	656,108	1	11
Decrease	1,192 number				25,873*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* amount.			

The discharges of mortgages on real securities amounted to 344,415*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in 1866, and to 452,933*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* in 1867, being to the extent of 108,517*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* in favour of the latter year.

Liens on Wool.

From the returns it appears that the amount of liens on wool has increased from 316,382*l.* in 1866 to 521,384 in 1867, the increase being 205,002*l.*, or over 64· per cent.

The number of sheep upon which liens were effected was 3,249,433 and the year before 1,904,804.

268 liens were registered, and 182 in 1866.

Mortgages on Live Stock.

2,384,506 sheep, 181,739 cattle, and 4,728 horses were placed under mortgage for the sum of 1,205,011*l.* during 1867; the former year's dealings show that 1,285,692*l.* was the amount lent.

392 mortgages were registered against 362 in 1866.

117 mortgages were discharged to the amount of 765,501*l.*, and the year previous 87, to the extent of 639,413*l.*

The amount of these investments during the last two years was—

	1866. £	1867. £
Amount of liens on wool	316,382	521,384
Amount lent on mortgage of live stock	1,285,692	1,205,011
Together	1,602,074	1,726,395

Real and Leasehold Estates.

In real and leasehold estates the number of deeds registered is 113 short of the previous year, whilst the amount of business transactions has increased by the sum of 216,595*l.*, viz.:—

	No. of Deeds registered.	Amount. £	s.	d.
1866	4,232	1,693,827	5	1
1867	4,119	1,910,422	10	3
Increase	—	216,594	5	2
Decrease	113	—		

The total number of deeds registered fell from 5,361 in 1866 to 4,959 in 1867.

Liens on growing Crops.

A gradual increase both in the number and amount of transactions has taken place in each successive year since the working of the Act in 1863.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The total accommodation given under this Act since 1863 amounts to 50,137*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, the number of liens registered being 606, viz.:—

	Number.	Amount. £
1863	72	6,399
1864	105	8,057
1865	112	9,133
1866	146	12,652
1867	171	13,896
Totals	606	50,137

Real Property Act.

The area of land brought under the Act was 261,484 acres of the value of 278,063*l.*, against 35,957 acres of 261,484*l.* value in 1866, the decrease being 1,279 acres of 16,599*l.* value.

The total amount of fees received exceeds the previous year by the sum of 373*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, viz.:—

	1867. £	*s.*	*d.*
Certificates and other dealings	1,591	5	4
Assurance	879	6	2
Commissioners	356	5	0
Total	2,826	16	6
Total of 1866	2,453	13	0
Increase	373	3	6

Crown grants registered under the Act show a large increase both in the number of grants, the area of land, and value, viz.:—

	No. of Grants.	Area, Acres.	Value. £
1866	2,455	113,737	139,526
1867	4,319	172,598	212,102
Increase	1,864	58,861	72,576

Insolvencies.

684 persons became insolvent—659 voluntary and 25 compulsory—the increase on the previous year was 90 or 15·15 per cent.

	£
Their liabilities amounted to	737,789; and
Their assets „	535,696
Showing a deficiency of	202,093

One person in every 654 of the estimated population surrendered his estate; and in 1866 one in every 726.

The fees in insolvency have increased from 1,980*l.* in 1866 to 2,569*l.* in 1867.

Publicans Licenses.

To retail fermented and spirituous liquors 2,195 licenses were issued; and in 1866, 2,109 licenses were issued for the same purpose—the increase being 86 licenses, or 4·07 per cent.

The receipts in aid of the consolidated revenue under this head show a falling off of 340*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, viz. :—

	1866. £	*s.*	*d.*	1867. £	*s.*	*d.*
To retail fermented and spirituous liquors -	62,822	5	8	62,463	3	2
Billiard and bagatelle licenses to publicans -	2,421	8	4	2,439	11	8
Totals - -	65,243	14	0	64,902	14	10
Decrease - -	£340	19	2			

For the district of Sydney 542 licenses were issued, or 24·69 per cent. of the total number.

Volunteer Corps.

On the 31st December, 1,537 names were on the roll, showing a reduction on the previous year of 297, viz. :—

	31st December. 1866.	1867.
Lieutenant Colonel - -	1	1
Captains - - -	25	23
Subalterns - - -	37	38
Staff - - -	12	12
Sergeants - - -	97	108
Buglers - - -	34	24
Rank and file - -	1,628	1,331
Totals - -	1,834	1,537
Decrease -	297, or 16·18 per cent.	

The expense of maintaining this corps was 5,169*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*; and in 1866, 6,270*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

On an average each volunteer cost the Colony 3*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*; and in 1866, 3*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* per head.

Volunteer Naval Brigade.

No material change has taken place in the strength of the Volunteer Naval Brigade. The members muster 230 strong, or 1 more than last year.

For the support of the Naval Brigade, 3,654*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* was expended; and in 1866, 3,943*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*

On an average each naval volunteer cost the Colony 16*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* in 1867, and 17*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* in 1866.

Land Sales.

The quantity of land disposed of, otherwise than conditionally, covered an area of 119,044 acres, or 9,867 acres, or 9 per cent. in excess of the year 1866.

The total price of the land sold amounted to 138,843, and in the previous year to 127,609*l.*; the increase being 11,234*l.* or 8·80 per cent.

In the settled and pastoral districts the area sold, and the price which the lands brought, were as follows :—

	Quantity. Acres.	Value. £
Settled districts -	20,544	31,751
Pastoral districts -	98,500	107,092
Totals -	119,044	138,843

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Of the area sold—

235 acres were town lots,
2,266 „ suburban lots; and
116,543 „ country lots; making

119,044 acres in all.

The land sales averaged 1*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* per acre, or 1*d.* per acre less than the sales of 1866.

The average price per acre paid for lands sold during the last triennial period, was as follows:

	1865.			1866.			1867.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sold at auction—Town -	41	0	8¾	40	1	7¾	43	18	11¾
Suburban -	4	9	5½	4	2	4½	2	19	11½
Country -	1	2	7¼	1	0	8¾	1	1	4
Unconditionally sold by selection - - -	1	0	5	1	0	6	1	0	3½
Improved lots sold to owners of improvements - -	1	3	2½	1	3	10	1	0	10¼
Proceeds of sales of unnecessary roads - - -	3	6	4¼	3	14	6½	1	19	3¾
Sold under return of water reservation - -	17	18	8¼	7	9	4	12	14	9
Specially sold at appraised price - - -	1	1	6	2	12	6¾	3	10	10¾
Reclaimed land sold at ditto	1	5	11¼	85	18	8	195	18	0½
Sold by pre-emption -	1	0	10¼	1	0	3	1	0	1½
Sold conditionally - -	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

Lands Granted.

The area of land set apart for public purposes was 13,935 acres, viz.:—

Grants under 100 acres - - - 444 acres.
Grants over 100 and less than 1,500 acres - 13,491 „

Total area granted in 1867 - 13,935 acres.
The area granted in 1866 was - 12,288 „

Increase in 1867 - 1,647 acres.

Conclusion.

Having now waded through a mass of figures contained in the Statistical Register, which the public are at all times loath to undertake, with a view of assisting those inquirers who have at heart an interest in the Colony's welfare, it is to be hoped that nothing of importance has escaped my notice; if so, I have only to direct attention to the tables themselves, which have been so carefully prepared as to afford in a concise form the results of the year's labours.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
THEORE. JAS. JAQUES,
Registrar General.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

No. 14.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S REPORT on the STATISTICAL REGISTER of QUEENSLAND for the YEAR 1867.

To the Honourable Arthur Hunter Palmer, Esquire, Colonial Secretary, &c. &c.

Registrar-General's Office, Brisbane,
June 2, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for presentation to Parliament, "The Statistical Register of the Colony of Queensland, for the year ending the 31st December 1867," together with the following comparative tables and explanatory remarks:—

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

The fifth session of the second Parliament of Queensland was opened by his Excellency the Governor in person on the 7th May 1867, and was prorogued by proclamation on the 23d day of the same month until the 5th day of June following. On the 29th of May his Excellency the Governor by proclamation dissolved the Legislative Assembly. A general election having taken place, the first session of the third Parliament was opened by his Excellency the Governor in person on the 7th day of August following. On the 15th day of the same month the ministry resigned, and a new one was at once appointed. An adjournment then took place consequent upon the members of the new ministry having to appeal to their respective constituencies. On the 17th of the following month the Parliament again met and proceeded to business. During the session the assembly sat on eighty-nine days, the daily average length of each sitting being six hours and twenty-three minutes.

At page 29 of the register will be found an alphabetical list of public bills, originated in each branch of the legislature, by which it appears that the number of bills originated in the Legislative Council was fifteen; three of which received the assent of his Excellency the late Governor, and two the assent of his Excellency the acting Governor; the remaining ten were disposed of in various ways, as detailed in the table referred to. In the Legislative Assembly the number of bills originated was sixty-two; thirty-six of which received the assent of his Excellency the late Governor, and eight the assent of his Excellency the acting Governor. The table before referred to will show what became of the remaining eighteen.

POPULATION.

Estimated population of Queensland on the 31st December 1867:

Males, 59,836 Females, 40,013 Persons, 99,849.

It will be found upon comparing this table with the estimated population on the 31st of December 1866 that the addition made to the population during the past year amounts to 2,529 males, and 1,119 females, in all 3,648 persons.

Estimated mean population of the year 1867:

Males, 58,572 Females, 39,453 Persons, 98,025

The centesimal increase in the population during the year 1867 is at the rate of 3·79 per cent.; males, 4·41 per cent.; females, 2·88 per cent. Upon comparison it will be seen that the male portion has increased considerably faster than that of the female. On the 31st December 1867 there were in the Colony 66·87 females to each 100 males, whereas on the 31st December 1866 there were 67·87 females to each 100 males.

QUEENSLAND.

A.

RETURN showing the INCREASE of the POPULATION of QUEENSLAND during each of the Four Quarters of the Year 1867.

1867.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
First Quarter.			
Population on the 1st January	57,307	38,894	96,201
Increase by excess of births over deaths during the Quarter	134	299	433
	57,441	39,193	96,634
Decrease by excess of emigration over immigration by sea, during the Quarter.	279	147	426
Population on the 31st March	57,162	39,046	96,208
Decrease of male population during the quarter	145	—	—
Increase of female population during the quarter	—	152	—
Total increase	—	—	7
Second Quarter.			
Population on the 1st April	57,162	39,046	96,208
Increase by excess of births over deaths during the Quarter	313	364	677
Increase of male population by excess of immigration over emigration, by sea, during the quarter.	139	—	139
	57,614	39,410	97,024
Decrease of female population by excess of emigration over immigration, by sea, during the Quarter.	—	176	176
Population on the 30th June	57,614	39,234	96,848
Increase during the Quarter	452	188	640
Third Quarter.			
Population on the 1st July	57,614	39,234	96,848
Increase by excess of births over deaths during the Quarter	422	496	918
Increase by excess of immigration over emigration by sea, during the Quarter.	830	2	832
Population on the 30th September	58,866	39,732	98,598
Increase during the Quarter	1,252	498	1,750
Fourth Quarter.			
Population on the 1st October	58,866	39,732	98,598
Increase by excess of births over deaths during the Quarter	318	385	703
Increase by excess of male immigration over emigration during the Quarter.	652	—	652
	59,836	40,117	99,953
Decrease of female population by excess of emigration over immigration, by sea, during the Quarter.	—	104	104
Population on the 31st December	59,836	40,013	99,849
Increase during the Quarter	970	281	1,251
Increase during the Year	2,529	1,119	3,648
Centesimal increase	4·41	2·88	3·79

The following tables, lettered B. to F. inclusive, refer especially to the vital statistics of the Colony for the years 1866 and 1867, and are prepared to facilitate comparisons.

B.

TABLE showing the Number of BIRTHS in the Years 1866 and 1867, also the PROPORTION of FEMALES to MALES born in each Year.

District.	1866.			1867.			Total Increase* or Decrease† in the latter Year.	Increase* or Decrease† per cent. in the latter Year.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1866.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1867.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
Banana - -	10	13	23	5	7	12	† 11	† 47·83	130·00	140·00
Bowen - - -	39	52	91	64	55	119	* 28	* 30·77	13·33	85·94
Brisbane - -	796	741	1,537	768	707	1,475	† 62	† 4·03	99·09	92·06
Cardwell - -	---	5	5	5	7	12	* 7	*140·00	—	140·00
Carpentaria (Burke) -	1	1	2	2	—	2	—	—	100·00	—
Cleveland Bay (Townsville).	18	22	40	9	24	33	† 7	† 17·50	122·22	266·67
Condamine - -	11	9	20	13	14	27	* 7	* 35·00	81·81	107·69
Dalby - - -	64	68	132	79	68	147	* 15	* 11·36	106·25	86·08
Drayton and Toowoomba	217	208	425	333	326	659	*234	* 55·06	95·85	97·90
Gayndah - -	61	54	115	55	50	105	† 10	† 8·69	88·52	90·90
Goondiwindi - -	5	9	14	6	10	16	* 2	* 14·29	180·00	166·67
Ipswich - - -	299	284	583	271	317	588	* 5	* 0·86	94·98	116·97
Isaacs, East (Nebo) -	7	4	11	9	4	13	* 2	* 18·18	57·14	44·44
Leyburn - -	18	14	32	15	14	29	† 3	† 9·37	77·78	93·33
Mackay - -	12	13	25	21	17	38	* 13	* 52·00	108·33	80·95
Nanango - -	7	6	13	9	12	21	* 8	* 61·54	85·71	133·33
North Cook (Somerset) -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peak Downs (Clermont) -	20	11	32	22	14	36	* 4	* 12·50	55·00	63·64
Port Curtis (Gladstone) -	30	20	50	36	25	61	* 11	* 22·00	66·67	69·44
Princhester - -	5	7	12	5	—	5	† 7	† 58·33	140·00	—
Rockhampton - -	215	193	408	251	246	497	* 89	* 21·81	89·76	98·01
Roma - - -	19	19	38	17	19	36	† 2	* 5·26	100·00	111·76
St. George - -	9	8	17	9	16	25	* 8	* 47·06	88·88	176·78
St. Lawrence (Broadsound)	7	6	13	6	9	15	* 2	* 15·38	85·71	150·00
Springsure - -	11	18	29	4	15	19	† 10	† 34·48	163·64	395·00
Surat - - -	9	8	17	7	5	12	† 5	† 29·41	88·88	71·43
Tambo - - -	5	2	7	4	5	9	* 2	* 28·57	40·00	125·00
Taroom - - -	15	15	30	9	7	16	† 14	† 46·67	100·00	77·78
Warrego (Charleville) -	2	5	7	6	3	9	* 2	* 28·57	250·00	50·00
Warwick - -	114	74	188	106	91	197	* 9	* 4·78	64·91	85·85
Wide Bay (Maryborough)	104	95	199	117	103	220	* 21	* 10·55	91·35	88·03
Woogaroo - -	7	5	12	12	11	23	* 11	* 91·67	71·43	91·66
Total - -	2,138	1,989	4,127	2,275	2,201	4,476	*349	* 8·46	93·07	96·75

C.

TABLE showing the Number of DEATHS in the Years 1866 and 1867, also the Proportion of Deaths of FEMALES to every 100 Deaths of MALES in 1867.

District.	1866.			1867.			Total Increase* or Decrease† in the latter Year.	Increase* or Decrease† per cent. in the latter Year.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1866.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1867.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
Banana - -	5	3	8	6	2	8	—	—	60·00	33·33
Bowen (Kennedy) -	31	17	48	27	17	44	† 4	† 8·33	54·83	62·96
Brisbane - -	538	401	939	301	227	528	†411	† 43·77	74·54	75·41
Cardwell - -	3	—	3	5	2	7	* 4	*133·33	-	40·00
Carpentaria (Burke) -	26	9	35	21	6	27	† 8	† 22·86	34·60	28·57
Cleveland Bay (Townsville).	16	9	25	13	7	20	† 5	† 20·00	56·25	153·85
Condamine - -	7	5	12	2	3	5	† 7	† 58·33	71·43	150·00
Dalby - - -	45	20	65	30	14	44	† 21	† 32·31	4·44	46·67
Drayton and Toowoomba	142	82	224	134	93	227	* 3	* 1·34	57·75	69·40
Gayndah - -	27	9	36	23	7	30	† 6	† 16·67	33·33	30·43
Goondiwindi - -	9	2	11	6	3	9	† 2	† 18·18	22·22	50·00
Ipswich - - -	216	183	399	83	71	154	†245	† 61·40	84·72	85·54
Isaacs East (Nebo) -	11	2	13	11	1	12	† 1	† 7·69	18·18	9·09
Leyburn - -	7	3	10	4	6	10	—	—	42·86	150·00
Mackay - - -	5	—	5	9	2	11	* 6	*120·00	—	22·22
Nanango - -	2	1	3	5	1	6	* 3	*100·00	50·00	20·00
North Cook (Somerset) -	2	1	3	—	—	—	† 3	†100·00	50·00	—
Peak Downs (Clermont) -	21	2	23	28	6	34	* 11	* 47·83	9·52	21·43
Port Curtis (Gladstone) -	7	2	9	11	3	14	* 5	* 55·55	28·57	27·27
Princhester - -	5	2	7	6	1	7	—	—	40·00	16·67
Rockhampton - -	128	65	193	182	99	281	* 88	* 45·60	50·71	54·40
Roma (Mt. Abundance) -	18	7	25	14	7	21	† 4	† 16·00	38·88	50·00
St. George - -	8	6	14	3	—	3	† 11	† 78·57	75·00	—
St. Lawrence (Broadsound).	7	—	7	9	1	10	* 3	* 11·11	—	11·11
Springsure - -	19	4	23	23	3	26	* 3	* 13·04	21·05	13·04
Surat - - -	7	4	11	10	4	14	* 3	* 27·27	57·14	140·00
Tambo (Mitchell) -	15	2	17	6	1	7	† 10	† 5·88	13·33	16·67
Taroom - - -	12	7	19	15	3	18	† 1	† 5·26	58·33	20·00
Warrego (Charleville) -	19	1	20	7	4	11	† 9	† 45·00	5·26	57·14
Warwick - -	30	26	56	52	34	86	* 30	* 53·57	86·66	65·38
Wide Bay (Maryborough)	48	38	86	34	27	61	† 25	† 29·07	79·17	79·41
Woogaroo - -	10	3	13	8	2	10	† 3	† 23·08	30·00	25·00
Total - -	1,446	916	2,362	1,088	657	1,745	†617	† 26·12	63·35	†60·39

QUEENSLAND.

D.

TABLE comparing the DEATHS of the Year 1867, with the BIRTHS of the same Year.

District.	Deaths in 1867.	Births in 1867.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Deaths have centesimally increased faster* or slower† than Births.
Banana	8	12	4	—	† 50·00
Bowen (Kennedy)	44	119	75	—	†170·45
Brisbane	528	1,475	947	—	†179·35
Cardwell	7	12	5	—	† 71·43
Carpentaria (Burke)	27	2	—	25	* 92·59
Cleveland Bay (Townsville)	20	33	13	—	† 65·00
Condamine	5	27	22	—	†440·00
Dalby	44	147	103	—	†234·09
Drayton and Toowoomba	227	659	432	—	†190·30
Gayndah	30	105	75	—	†250·00
Goondiwindi	9	16	7	—	† 77·78
Ipswich	154	588	434	—	† 28·18
Isaacs East (Nebo)	12	13	1	—	† 08·33
Leyburn	10	29	19	—	†190·00
Mackay	11	38	27	—	†245·45
Nanango	6	21	15	—	†250·00
North Cook (Somerset)	—	—	—	—	Nil.
Peak Downs (Clermont)	34	36	2	—	† 05·88
Port Curtis (Gladstone)	14	61	47	—	†335·71
Princhester	7	5	—	2	* 28·56
Rockhampton	281	497	216	—	† 76·87
Roma (Mount Abundance)	21	36	15	—	† 71·43
St. George	3	25	22	—	†733·33
St. Lawrence (Broadsound)	10	15	5	—	† 50·00
Springsure	26	19	—	7	* 26·92
Surat	14	12	—	2	* 14·29
Tambo (Mitchell)	7	9	2	—	† 28·57
Taroom	18	16	—	2	* 11·11
Warrego (Charleville)	11	9	—	2	* 18·18
Warwick	86	197	111	—	†129·07
Wide Bay (Maryborough)	61	220	159	—	†260·66
Woogaroo	10	23	13	—	†130·00
Total	1,745	4,476	2,771	40	†158·79

E.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS of CHILDREN under Five Years of Age registered in the Years 1866 and 1867.

District.	1866.			1867.			Increase* or Decrease† in the Deaths of Children below Two Years of Age.	Increase* or Decrease† in the Deaths of Children Two Years of Age and under Five Years.	Total Increase* or Decrease† in the Deaths of Children below Five Years of Age.
	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.			
Banana	3	—	3	1	—	1	† 2	—	† 2
Bowen (Kennedy)	17	2	19	17	5	22	—	* 3	* 3
Brisbane	444	79	523	271	45	316	†173	† 34	†207
Cardwell	—	—	—	3	1	4	* 3	* 1	* 4
Carpentaria (Burke)	—	3	3	4	2	6	* 4	† 1	* 3
Cleveland Bay (Townsville)	14	1	15	12	2	14	† 2	* 1	† 1
Condamine	6	—	6	4	—	4	† 2	—	† 2
Dalby	23	2	25	22	2	24	† 1	—	† 1
Drayton and Toowoomba	97	17	114	117	27	144	* 20	* 10	* 30
Gayndah	7	3	10	13	2	15	* 6	† 1	* 5
Goondiwindi	4	—	4	3	—	3	† 1	—	† 1
Ipswich	180	30	210	67	14	81	†113	† 16	†129
Isaacs East (Nebo)	1	1	2	3	—	3	* 2	† 1	* 1
Leyburn	4	1	5	6	—	6	* 2	† 1	* 1
Mackay	4	—	4	2	—	2	† 2	—	† 2
Nanango	2	1	3	1	1	2	† 1	—	† 1
North Cook (Somerset)	1	—	1	—	—	—	† 1	—	† 1
Peak Downs (Clermont)	6	—	6	5	2	7	† 1	* 2	* 1
Port Curtis (Gladstone)	5	—	5	10	—	10	* 5	—	* 5
Princhester	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	† 1	† 1
Rockhampton	90	15	105	140	20	160	* 50	* 5	* 55
Roma (Mount Abundance)	8	—	8	10	—	10	* 2	—	* 2
St. George	4	1	5	1	1	2	† 3	—	† 3
St. Lawrence (Broad Sound)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springsure	4	1	5	5	—	5	* 1	† 1	—
Surat	5	1	6	4	—	4	† 1	† 1	† 2
Tambo (Mitchell)	1	1	2	3	—	3	* 2	† 1	* 1
Taroom	2	1	3	6	—	6	* 4	† 1	* 3
Warrego (Charleville)	2	—	2	2	2	4	—	* 2	* 2
Warwick	22	8	30	39	13	52	* 17	* 5	* 22
Wide Bay (Maryborough)	50	5	55	31	2	33	† 19	† 3	† 22
Woogaroo	1	—	1	3	—	3	* 2	—	* 2
Total	1,008	174	1,182	806	141	947	†202	† 31	†237

F.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of MARRIAGES celebrated in each of the Years 1866 and 1867.

District.	Year.	Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan Methodist.	Primitive Methodist.	United Methodist Free Church.	Congregational.	Baptist.	Particular Baptist.	Lutheran.	Hebrew Church.	German Independent.	Bible Christians.	Registration Act.	Total in 1866.	Total in 1867.
Banana - -	1866	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Bowen (Kennedy) -	1866	23	16	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	46	—
	1867	—	6	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	14
Brisbane - -	1866	68	94	86	21	12	2	16	5	8	53	—	—	—	29	394	—
	1867	52	72	70	25	13	3	18	9	5	38	—	—	3	21	—	329
Cardwell - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Carpentaria (Burke) -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cleveland Bay (Townsville) - - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
	1867	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	11
Condamine - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	1867	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dalby - - -	1866	6	12	3	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	31	—
	1867	5	11	2	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	26
Drayton and Toowoomba	1866	19	33	4	9	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	91	—
	1867	17	43	16	18	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	—	118
Gayndah - -	1866	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	11	27	—
	1867	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	21
Goondiwindi - -	1866	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
	1867	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Ipswich - -	1866	20	61	12	21	2	—	5	8	—	8	—	—	—	15	152	—
	1867	15	40	12	26	5	—	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	9	—	117
Isaacs East (Nebo) -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
	1867	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5
Leyburn - -	1866	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Mackay - -	1866	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	12	—
	1867	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	12
Nanango - -	1866	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	1867	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
North Cook (Somerset)	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peak Downs (Clermont)	1866	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	—
	1867	—	2	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9
Port Curtis (Gladstone)	1866	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	18	—
	1867	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	11
Princhester - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rockhampton - -	1866	19	53	38	4	22	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	150	—
	1867	12	39	29	2	22	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	120
Roma(MountAbundance)	1866	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	—
	1867	2	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	18
St. George - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
St. Lawrence (Broad Sound) - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
	1867	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Springsure - -	1866	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surat - - -	1866	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	1867	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Tambo (Mitchell) -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Taroom - -	1866	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warrego (Charleville) -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Warwick - -	1866	11	12	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	36	—
	1867	9	23	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41
Wide Bay(Maryborough)	1866	9	12	—	15	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	3	51	—
	1867	11	11	—	6	—	—	—	11	—	8	—	—	—	2	—	49
Woogaroo - -	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total in 1866 -	—	184	311	161	73	36	2	58	33	8	61	—	9	—	132	1,068	935
Total in 1867 -	—	134	261	141	87	40	3	54	23	5	55	—	15	3	114	935	—

QUEENSLAND.

As regards the registered births of these years, the respective numbers were, in 1866, 4,127; in 1867, 4,476; the latter year showing an increase in number of 349 over that of the previous year, and a centesimal rate of increase of 8·46.

The respective numbers of the registered deaths of each of those years were, in 1866, 2,362, in 1867, 1,745, the decrease in the latter year being 617, and the centesimal rate of decrease 26·12.

As regards the registered deaths of children, their respective numbers were in the year 1866, below two years of age, 1,008; two years and under five years of age, 174; total under five years of age, 1,182; in the year 1867, the respective numbers were 806 under two years of age, 141 between the ages of two and five, in all under five years of age, 947; the numericial decrease being, below two years of age, 202; two years and under five, 33; in all under five years of age, 235; being a centesimal decrease of deaths under five years of age of 19·88. From the foregoing, it will be observed that whilst the births during the past year have considerably increased, the number of deaths has materially diminished.

The births in the district of Drayton and Toowoomba have increased from 425 in 1866, to 659 in 1867, being an increase of 234, out of a total increase of births throughout the whole of the Colony of 349.

The registration districts of Brisbane and Ipswich show a considerable decrease in the number of deaths; for whilst in the former the deaths were in the year 1866, 939, in 1867 they only amounted to 528. In Ipswich for 1866, 399, in 1867, 154.

The great number of deaths in those districts during the year 1866 may be accounted for owing to zymotic diseases being very prevalent throughout that year.

Table F. records the marriages in each of the years 1866 and 1867. It will be observed that the marriages in 1867 were 133 less than in the previous year, being a centesimal decrease of 12·45.

IMMIGRATION.

The following table, being an abstract taken from the Immigration Returns, published at page 103 of the register, shows that only 1,075 persons arrived in the Colony from Europe during the year. This great falling off may be chiefly accounted for owing to free immigration having been stopped towards the latter end of the year 1866. It is, however, only reasonable to suppose that when the liberality of the land laws, recently passed by the Parliament, become known, immigration will again set in, and it may be anticipated that when the next register is published it will be found they have been duly appreciated.

G.

Description of Ships.	No. of Ships.	No. of Persons Landed.	Equal to Statute Adults.
Black Ball Ships	4	855	750½
Short Ships	7	220	189
Total	11	1,075	939½

H.

MORTALITY.

Description of Ships.	No. of Souls Embarked.	No. of Deaths.	Centesimal Proportion of Deaths to Numbers Embarked.
Black Ball Ships	855	8	0·94
Short Ships	221	1	0·45
Total	1,076	9	0·84

It will be seen that the mortality amongst the passengers from Europe during the year has been very small, owing probably to the ships not having been in any way overcrowded.

EDUCATION.

At page 124 of the register will be found a return showing the number of Primary schools under the supervision of the Board of General Education for the year ending 31st December 1867. The return shows the number of schools to be 60 as against 39 for the previous year; the average daily attendance of pupils having increased from 3,722·8 to 4,359·5, being at the centesimal rate of 17·11 per cent.

The expenditure for salaries and rent has increased from 7,690*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 9,344*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, being a centesimal increase of 21·37 per cent.

From the return it is evident that parents duly appreciate the energy displayed by the board in constantly opening new schools, and gladly avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded of educating their children. As regards the return of private schools, published in the register, at page 125, it will be seen, upon comparison with the return for 1866, that although only a slight decrease has occurred in their numbers, a great decrease has taken place in the number of pupils attending them; the relative number of schools being 90 in 1866, and 88 in 1867. Of scholars, the number was 3,016 in 1866 as against 2,225 in 1867—the decrease being at the rate of 25·23 per cent. This great decrease may be accounted for, partly owing to the general depression which prevailed throughout the year, and partly owing to the opening of new schools by the Board of General Education.

I.

Primary Schools.

1866.	39 schools.		
1867.	60 „		
Increase	21 „	Centesimal increase - -	53·85.
1866.	Aggregate attendance of scholars - -		7,939
1867.	Ditto ditto ditto - - -		9,138
	Increase - - - -		1,199
	Centesimal increase - -		15·10
1866.	Average daily attendance - - -		3,722
1867.	Ditto ditto - - - -		4,359
	Increase - - - -		637
	Centesimal increase - -		17·11

		£	*s.*	*d.*
1866.	Salaries and rent - - - -	7,690	17	6
1867.	Ditto ditto - - - -	9,334	9	4
	Increase - - - -	£1,643	11	10
	Centesimal increase - - -	21·37		

Private Schools.

1866.	Number of scholars - - - -	3,016
1867.	Ditto ditto - - - -	2,255
	Decrease - - - -	761
	Centesimal decrease - -	25·23

QUEENSLAND.

CRIME.

The following tables, lettered respectively J. K. L., are summaries compiled from returns which will be found at pages 79, 82, and 83 of the register.

1st. Of the number of criminal cases, and their results of acquittal or conviction respectively, tried before the central criminal court, held at Brisbane, and the several circuit courts of the Colony.

2d. A similar summary of criminal cases, tried before the several district courts of the Colony.

3d. A summary of the results of cases heard before the various courts of petty sessions throughout the Colony.

J.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL and CIRCUIT COURTS, 1867.

Offences.	Brisbane.	Ipswich.	Toowoomba.	Maryborough.	Rockhampton.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Total Tried.
Felonies - - -	8	10	8	6	13	15	30	45
Misdemeanors - - -	—	1	1	—	8	4	6	10
Total - -	8	11	9	6	21	19	36	55

K.

DISTRICT COURTS, 1867.

Offences.	Metropolitan District.	Northern District.	Western District.	Remanded or Discharged.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Total Tried.
Felonies - - -	69	47	30	21	62	63	146
Misdemeanors - - -	13	15	2	5	10	15	30
Total -	82	62	32	26	72	78	176

L.

COURTS of PETTY SESSIONS, 1867.

Offences.	No. of Cases Investigated.		Committed for Trial.		Convicted Summarily.		Remanded or Discharged.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against person - - - -	646	47	38	3	387	25	221	19
Against property - - - -	916	71	185	19	335	23	396	29
Against Merchant Seamen's Act - -	91	—	1	—	62	—	28	—
Against Masters and Servants Act - -	643	6	—	—	416	2	227	4
Drunkenness - - - - -	1,530	144	—	—	1,136	96	394	48
Vagrancy - - - - -	377	129	—	—	291	101	86	28
All other offences - - - -	602	38	5	—	399	21	198	17
Total - -	4,805	435	229	22	3,026	268	1,550	145

With respect to the more serious classes of offences, it will be seen, on comparison with similar returns for the year 1866, that a sensible decrease has taken place, inasmuch as in the central criminal and circuit courts there have been only 55 cases as against 108 in 1866. This decrease has been mainly in cases of felony, there having been only 45 such cases against 97 in 1866, whilst there were 10 misdemeanors as against 11.

The proportion of acquittals in those courts is not materially altered, being as to felonies 29·47 per cent. in 1866 as against 33 per cent. in 1867, whilst the misdemeanors were so few in the aggregate as scarcely to justify comparison.

With regard to the district courts the aggregate of cases shows a slight decrease only, viz. 176 as against 182; but the results appear to have been materially different, for whilst in 1866 there were 11 remanded or discharged, 26 appear to have been so in 1867; whilst of those cases in which a final result was obtained, 69 or 37·91 per cent. were acquitted, whilst in 1867 the absolute number rose to 72, being 48 per cent., not far from one half.

It is not easy to explain why the proportion of acquittals is so much larger in the district courts than in the circuit courts; but the conclusion appears to be irresistible, that either a large proportion of the cases should never have been sent to trial, or else that the machinery of the district courts is defective for purposes of justice and favourable to crime.

On the whole, considering that the gross population of the Colony has increased, the Colony may be congratulated on a decided decrease in the more serious classes of crime.

With regard to the business of the courts of petty sessions, it will be noticed that a variation has been made in the summary by the substitution of a table of "cases investigated" instead of "taken into custody," the reason being that in many cases, especially of breaches of the "Masters and Servants Act," and minor offences against persons and property, proceedings are often initiated by summons instead of warrant.

One effect of this alteration is to make an apparent increase of cases.

The number of committals is diminished from 295 to 251, or over 14·61 per cent.

It is quite impossible to make any comparison with the cases above mentioned; but I have every reason to believe that no increase has taken place in those offences.

It is satisfactory to note that the cases of drunkenness show a marked decrease, viz., from 2,283 to 1,674, or 26·68 per cent. This is the more satisfactory, as this crime is especially fruitful in producing others. Vagrancy appears to have increased, which is, no doubt, attributable to the great amount of distress that prevailed throughout the year—a distress which might reasonably have been expected to produce a large increase of crime in general instead of a diminution.

BANKS.

Government Savings Bank.

Full returns of the business of this establishment for the year 1867, being the third year of its existence, are published in the register, at pages 85, 86, and 87.

It will be seen, upon comparison, that whereas on the 31st December 1866, there stood in the books of the bank the sum of 86,759*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, to the credit of 2,484 persons; this sum had increased on the 31st December 1867 to 120,104*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and was to the credit of 3,129 persons. This increase may be considered highly satisfactory, especially when it is borne in mind the high rate of interest money commanded throughout the year. The number of depositors has increased at the rate of 25·97 per cent., and the amount deposited at the rate of 38·43 per cent.

Joint Stock Banks.

The following table gives the aggregate banking transactions of the several private banks carrying on business in the Colony for each quarter of each year since the 1st January 1860. Upon comparing the last quarter of 1866 with that of 1867, it will be found that notes in circulation and discounts have both decreased, the former at the rate of 1·33, and the latter at the rate of 16·81. A very considerable increase has taken place under the heads of the following:—Deposits, 15·75 per cent., coin, 40·82 per cent., and bullion, 56·51 per cent., and an increase of 4·46 per cent. in bills in circulation.

M.

TABLE comparing the aggregate LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the COLONIAL BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS at the TERMINATION of each QUARTER of the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867.

		LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.						
Quarters of the Year.	Year.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks and Branches.	Notes and Bills discounted, and all other Debts due to the Banks.	Total Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Quarter	1860	32,734 16 6	2,419 7 7	57,161 1 5	166,574 10 6	258,889 16 0	52,677 3 1	Nil.	7,172 5 2	4,804 18 8	1,166 11 5	390,250 8 9	456,071 7 1
	1861	46,975 11 8	2,889 5 2	52 18 1	310,842 6 3	360,760 1 2	66,225 3 4	51 8 6	14,235 17 7	1,290 15 10	5,374 10 8	558,895 5 5	596,073 1 4
	1862	78,110 10 1	5,710 7 5	726 13 2	310,843 1 1	395,390 11 9	86,015 14 5	113 15 3	19,491 5 1	1,860 1 2	5,965 10 8	630,686 12 11	744,132 19 6
	1863	89,165 12 10	9,971 0 0	102,634 19 3	368,348 19 11	570,120 12 0	108,455 19 4	Nil.	27,283 12 4	3,917 3 1	2,226 7 11	789,239 8 3	931,122 10 11
	1864	122,916 3 4	16,126 13 3	180,371 18 10	568,318 9 7	887,733 14 5	160,162 3 4	553 18 1	36,007 8 10	8,579 12 1	7,694 16 1	1,234,653 16 10	1,447,651 15 3
	1865	172,615 16 3	20,320 7 2	19,271 12 10	754,360 7 10	966,567 14 1	177,809 17 6	19,222 2 11	41,671 10 0	15,746 7 6	12,292 18 6	1,630,792 6 0	1,897,535 2 5
	1866	190,165 16 6	17,631 1 2	29,777 3 10	770,102 10 6	1,007,676 12 0	193,173 16 0	6,369 14 6	54,364 12 7	10,991 18 8	24,409 13 9	2,083,256 16 8	2,372,566 12 2
	1867	126,269 16 7	16,762 7 9	19,439 4 9	648,379 11 2	910,851 0 3	222,337 9 10	9,884 5 9	64,316 0 4	8,191 4 8	23,118 10 2	1,759,627 1 9	2,087,474 12 6
Second Quarter	1860	35,744 19 11	2,596 7 10	47 17 1	182,435 4 5	220,824 9 3	58,385 2 11	39 11 5	7,946 19 0	1,694 19 11	2,844 16 1	420,138 16 4	491,050 5 8
	1861	52,143 9 2	3,451 3 7	778 10 0	267,351 16 8	323,724 19 5	71,292 1 7	43 12 6	16,363 6 10	1,672 9 8	6,901 19 2	504,818 1 4	611,091 11 1
	1862	80,773 11 5	7,284 14 11	595 11 5	314,769 17 11	403,423 15 8	90,691 5 3	Nil.	21,415 9 10	2,477 7 8	4,149 1 11	652,029 8 4	770,762 13 0
	1863	93,078 5 5	12,983 12 9	1,880 15 7	412,591 16 7	520,534 10 4	114,641 6 6	Nil.	29,197 6 9	4,248 13 11	2,334 8 8	891,873 7 11	1,042,295 3 9
	1864	129,518 19 5	20,398 15 6	16,436 18 0	675,020 15 1	841,375 8 0	206,064 15 1	1,372 14 7	35,820 17 11	7,881 2 7	11,849 3 4	1,286,689 3 2	1,549,677 16 8
	1865	170,209 17 8	23,055 2 1	24,318 4 10	756,613 13 11	971,196 18 9	180,961 17 11	7,561 1 5	44,901 2 9	10,669 5 6	14,910 12 9	1,674,249 3 5	1,933,253 3 9
	1866	181,781 16 4	21,808 16 9	22,955 19 8	776,423 8 2	1,002,970 0 11	197,247 15 7	5,319 5 4	56,835 11 6	11,345 12 9	18,472 3 9	2,213,295 17 11	2,502,516 6 10
	1867	115,338 17 0	14,661 4 1	17,337 7 9	809,838 8 11	957,175 17 9	263,155 2 6	10,172 7 9	65,648 9 8	9,648 4 9	18,341 17 0	1,633,981 19 8	2,000,948 1 6
Third Quarter	1860	39,963 3 5	7,920 3 3	18 7 8	236,337 5 0	284,238 19 4	61,289 13 10	86 8 1	11,996 18 3	1,289 11 11	4,730 17 11	472,537 11 4	551,931 1 4
	1861	56,773 6 3	3,617 13 0	5,024 9 1	266,700 10 9	332,115 19 1	78,869 2 2	46 1 4	16,475 6 1	1,548 4 1	4,325 4 6	590,308 7 10	691,572 6 0
	1862	79,599 11 5	18,468 15 7	941 17 11	344,542 14 3	443,552 19 2	96,166 2 4	Nil.	21,709 0 11	2,337 18 6	5,813 6 1	683,862 15 9	809,889 3 7
	1863	98,201 7 10	20,382 3 9	7,007 9 1	435,877 1 2	561,468 1 10	117,332 16 5	8 7 4	32,118 7 4	3,913 12 5	5,425 18 3	998,726 19 5	1,157,526 1 2
	1864	141,629 16 3	28,180 0 7	25,433 4 3	672,235 19 11	867,679 1 0	201,904 19 10	6,256 4 7	36,022 1 8	8,615 15 6	13,592 16 3	1,427,928 7 2	1,694,320 5 0
	1865	174,394 4 10	21,154 15 6	26,996 9 5	780,845 3 6	1,013,390 13 3	196,134 19 1	4,810 6 9	49,159 17 10	8,201 0 8	17,493 0 5	1,858,005 19 10	2,133,805 4 7
	1866	185,496 17 5	28,337 9 5	31,428 6 3	806,743 10 8	1,052,006 3 9	225,575 2 7	5,841 15 5	57,723 15 2	11,921 6 9	17,460 11 9	2,300,963 3 11	2,619,485 15 7
	1867	110,486 14 2	12,081 5 4	22,950 4 11	788,660 8 2	934,178 12 7	301,280 4 2	13,429 0 11	65,580 12 8	9,451 8 2	22,570 4 2	1,581,929 0 8	1,994,240 10 9
Fourth Quarter	1860	42,765 11 8	2,473 18 11	17 2 10	286,917 1 4	332,173 14 9	63,843 6 7	43 14 11	13,749 18 8	1,293 14 9	4,870 4 4	490,860 2 5	574,661 1 8
	1861	63,104 12 4	4,499 17 5	323 5 3	322,310 5 5	390,238 0 5	84,916 8 6	40 8 6	18,016 0 7	1,527 7 3	8,101 16 1	618,315 18 1	730,917 19 0
	1862	87,103 4 10	11,903 6 0	2,083 17 4	341,155 8 8	442,245 16 10	105,268 11 6	Nil.	25,538 9 8	2,286 14 1	4,107 1 10	751,678 5 10	888,879 2 11
	1863	107,634 1 10	14,351 5 10	4,189 16 5	472,765 16 0	598,941 0 1	128,632 4 1	1,253 7 6	34,542 6 1	8,649 0 2	6,894 18 1	1,055,989 5 3	1,235,961 1 2
	1864	137,799 3 5	22,398 11 11	11,057 8 4	757,153 19 4	928,409 3 0	178,503 11 0	13,510 0 3	38,874 19 11	17,201 16 11	6,504 0 8	1,571,188 5 9	1,825,782 14 6
	1865	181,615 2 4	25,060 11 3	23,336 9 11	770,912 8 9	1,000,924 10 0	193,017 6 5	5,390 1 9	52,532 5 10	9,118 6 3	18,195 5 0	2,023,207 15 0	2,281,461 0 3
	1866	126,957 6 6	11,871 17 1	16,235 1 4	750,604 14 1	905,668 19 0	218,656 15 1	8,055 9 9	62,091 6 0	7,765 19 11	22,287 14 10	1,906,579 14 2	2,225,436 19 9
	1867	125,272 7 8	12,400 18 5	18,795 16 9	868,816 19 0	1,025,286 1 10	307,907 19 7	12,607 6 9	68,746 1 2	8,345 11 5	17,117 13 1	1,586,033 18 5	2,000,558 10 5

LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of the Live Stock in the Colony of Queensland on the 31st December 1867.

Horses, 53,146. Cattle, 940,354. Sheep, 8,665,757. Pigs, 18,142.

Comparing the above return with that of 1866, it appears, by the following table N., that a fair increase has taken place in each description of stock.

N.

—	1866.	1867.	Numerical Increase* or Decrease.†	Centesimal Increase* or Decrease.†
Horses - -	52,311	53,146	835	*1·59
Cattle - -	919,414	940,354	20,940	*2·28
Sheep - -	7,278,778	8,665,757	1,386,979	*19·06
Pigs - -	13,961	18,142	4,181	*29·95

O.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the COLONY of QUEENSLAND in the Years 1866 and 1867.

Police District.	1866.				1867.			
	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Banana - - -	1,170	6,848	328,075	20	890	7,486	324,559	92
Bowen - - -	693	27,736	151,429	209	1,276	41,889	176,695	517
Brisbane - Brisbane - -	2,603	15,534	4,854	2,661	2,711	13,664	3,299	2,252
Brisbane - Cleveland - -	406	3,448	407	254	298	3,165	347	434
Brisbane - Logan - -	1,093	24,884	371	595	1,588	25,023	5,559	1,357
Brisbane - Sandgate - -	316	3,276	116	175	373	2,554	96	311
Brisbane - Warraba - -	—	—	—	—	488	14,987	470	97
Brisbane - Woogaroo - -	840	4,626	176	477	922	5,448	341	898
Burke* - - -	—	—	134,284	—	441	6,602	59,876	7
Cardwell - - -	491	11,308	45,567	2	418	11,618	34,302	31
Charleville - - -	2,500	41,072	441,382	5	2,381	39,314	542,926	35
Clermont - - -	942	10,589	452,723	58	1,068	10,017	596,231	457
Condamine - - -	515	5,605	117,551	47	682	9,244	132,901	77
Dalby - - - -	2,058	24,873	667,150	455	1,940	19,878	751,138	422
Drayton and Toowoomba -	3,731	14,059	386,823	1,733	3,879	24,747	636,912	2,732
Gayndah - - -	3,432	73,613	764,441	209	3,478	74,506	878,025	268
Gladstone - - -	1,670	54,981	83,134	281	1,532	52,713	54,735	382
Goondiwindi - - -	3,207	23,593	102,975	147	1,755	25,453	156,917	207
Ipswich - - -	5,018	93,572	129,717	2,421	5,497	86,556	107,106	2,060
Leyburn - - -	1,470	21,291	248,418	371	1,690	14,570	256,680	434
Mackay - - -	271	11,905	100	99	498	12,362	41,115	229
Maryborough (Wide Bay -	2,519	107,157	81,756	702	2,699	113,251	56,227	1,042
Mitchell* - - -	274	13,237	209,663	—	300	4,343	234,978	7
Nanango - - -	1,216	25,216	149,172	40	1,523	27,941	163,458	53
Nebo - - - -	343	7,337	114,925	25	343	7,337	114,925	25
Princhester† - - -	453	17,907	72,350	320	—	—	—	—
Rockhampton - - -	3,052	40,946	173,107	1,406	4,610	59,783	332,822	1,753
Roma - - - -	1,042	9,677	612,563	44	1,089	15,167	672,680	121
Somerset - - -	21	350	3,000	—	19	300	—	40
Springsure - - -	1,189	10,373	554,428	68	1,584	8,742	747,433	147
St. George - - -	3,467	109,767	175,062	76	409	74,674	233,422	183
St. Lawrence (Waverley) -	421	12,214	902	53	1,280	41,994	93,445	263
Surat - - - -	749	31,340	134,619	43	643	22,658	142,631	65
Taroom - - -	1,261	10,401	510,546	27	1,373	12,023	564,821	23
Townsville - - -	616	21,396	105,450	68	585	34,048	153,031	81
Warwick - - -	3,259	29,463	321,542	870	2,880	16,287	395,654	1,040
Total - - -	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	53,146	940,354	8,665,757	18,142

* Pastoral districts.

† Now forms part of the district of St. Lawrence.

AGRICULTURE.

From the following return it will be seen that on the 31st of December 1867 there were 31,559 acres 1 rood 13 perches of land under cultivation in the Colony, being an increase of 7,126 acres 0 roods 26 perches of land over the previous year, and a centesimal increase of 29·17.

P.

COMPARATIVE VEIW of the STATE of AGRICULTURE in

Police District.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.	Millet.	Potatoes.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Banana	1866	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	2 0 0
Bowen	1866	—	97 3 0	—	—	10 0 0	1 0 0
	1867	—	58 0 0	—	—	26 0 0	5 0 0
Brisbane — Brisbane	1866	5 2 0	1,685 3 20	10 1 0	90 3 0	17 2 24	480 0 14
	1867	0 0 20	1,694 0 0	3 0 0	35 0 0	13 3 1	387 2 15
Brisbane — Cleveland	1866	0 2 0	240 0 10	—	3 0 0	3 2 20	59 2 10
	1867	—	205 0 20	—	9 0 0	3 1 0	123 1 31
Brisbane — Logan	1866	43 1 0	1,148 0 0	1 0 0	20 0 0	2 1 0	109 1 0
	1867	6 0 0	1,346 2 2	1 0 0	44 2 2	7 2 0	170 3 7
Brisbane — Sandgate	1866	—	238 1 0	2 0 0	25 0 0	0 2 0	36 3 0
	1867	—	359 2 20	—	21 1 0	1 3 0	78 0 30
Brisbane — Warraba	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	41 0 0	—	—	—	2 1 0
Brisbane — Woogaroo	1866	—	792 0 0	6 0 2	30 3 0	3 0 0	178 2 0
	1867	—	1,194 3 0	—	30 0 0	1 0 0	133 2 0
Burke*	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardwell	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	10 0 0	—	—	—	0 2 0
Charleville	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clermont	1866	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Condamine	1866	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	0 1 0
	1867	—	12 2 0	—	1 0 0	—	4 3 0
Dalby	1866	—	27 0 0	—	—	—	2 0 0
	1867	—	16 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	—	3 0 0
Drayton and Toowoomba	1866	274 0 0	1,845 3 10	25 0 0	164 0 20	10 2 0	441 0 24
	1867	765 2 0	1,802 1 20	41 1 0	200 2 1	22 1 0	620 1 22
Gayndah	1866	—	53 1 23	2 0 0	4 0 0	0 0 10	9 3 20
	1867	—	31 1 32	—	—	—	7 3 2
Gladstone	1866	—	14 1 0	—	—	5 0 0	0 0 1
	1867	—	23 0 0	—	—	—	2 0 0
Goondiwindi	1866	—	3 0 0	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	8 0 0	—	—	—	—
Ipswich	1866	—	905 1 0	10 3 0	150 0 0	10 3 4	112 3 0
	1867	—	1,168 0 35	8 2 0	20 0 0	14 0 6	142 2 26
Leyburn	1866	16 0 0	21 1 2	—	1 0 0	—	3 1 0
	1867	15 0 0	26 0 0	0 2 0	12 0 0	—	3 1 0
Mackay	1866	—	114 2 0	—	—	—	1 2 0
	1867	—	261 1 0	—	—	—	11 3 0
Maryborough	1866	0 2 4	448 0 0	—	9 0 0	—	66 3 0
	1867	—	391 1 0	—	1 0 0	4 1 0	43 1 0
Mitchell*	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nanango	1866	1 0 0	28 0 0	—	2 0 0	—	0 2 20
	1867	—	16 0 0	—	—	—	0 2 0
Nebo	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Princhester†	1866	—	1 0 0	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rockhampton	1866	1 0 0	58 3 0	4 2 0	16 3 0	4 2 0	11 2 1
	1867	0 1 0	32 1 0	—	10 2 0	1 2 0	31 3 0
Roma	1866	—	7 2 0	—	—	—	0 2 0
	1867	—	2 0 0	—	—	—	—
Somerset	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springsure	1866	—	10 0 0	—	—	1 0 0	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	0 1 0	—
St. George	1866	4 0 0	2 1 0	—	1 2 0	—	—
	1867	0 2 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	—	—	0 2 0
St. Lawrence	1866	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surat	1866	—	1 3 0	—	—	—	0 2 0
	1867	—	0 2 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	—	0 2 0
Taroom	1866	—	4 0 0	—	—	—	2 0 20
	1867	—	17 0 0	—	—	—	0 2 0
Townsville	1866	—	10 0 0	—	—	—	—
	1867	—	20 0 0	—	—	—	—
Warwick	1866	2,220 1 0	2,171 2 0	51 0 0	185 2 0	8 1 0	69 0 0
	1867	1,870 0 0	1,859 3 0	55 0 0	93 0 0	12 1 0	137 0 0
TOTAL	1866	2,566 0 4	9,930 2 25	113 0 10	703 1 20	78 0 18	1,587 1 30
	1867	2,657 1 20	10,598 2 9	114 1 0	482 1 3	107 3 7	1,912 3 13
Increase		111 0 16	667 3 24	1 0 30	—	29 2 29	326 1 23
Decrease		—	—	—	221 0 17	—	—

* Pastoral District.

† Now forms part of the District of St. Lawrence.

\- - - - - P.

each District of Queensland for the Years 1866 and 1867.

Cotton.			Arrowroot.			Sugar Cane.			Tobacco.			Green Fodder.			Dry Fodder.			Gardens.			All other Crops.			Vineyards.			Total.		
A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
—			—			—			—			—			—			8	2	0	—			1	0	0	10	2	0
—			—			—			—			3	0	0	—			8	1	0	—			—			14	1	0
35	0	0	0	1	0	12	2	0	—			—			—			20	0	0	—			1	0	0	176	3	0
133	0	0	0	1	0	59	0	0	—			—			—			33	3	0	—			2	2	0	317	2	0
45	0	24	15	1	30	65	0	36	4	0	10	394	3	0	779	2	20	583	2	17	119	3	24	99	0	6	4,396	3	35
630	1	7	17	2	6	124	0	8	0	1	0	88	2	25	729	3	30	744	1	36	15	2	0	98	2	20	4,583	0	8
82	3	7	0	0	9	38	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	72	2	0	113	2	15	8	2	0	7	2	30	640	3	22
127	0	3	1	3	3	308	1	0	0	1	0	11	3	24	39	0	0	66	3	8	19	0	20	11	3	20	926	3	36
655	3	0	15	1	0	125	3	0	3	1	0	22	3	0	59	2	0	64	2	0	40	1	0	2	0	0	2,312	3	0
1,009	3	0	8	2	30	416	0	19	3	1	3	—			2	0	0	69	1	5	7	3	10	1	2	0	3,094	2	38
—			—			—			0	1	0	28	1	0	31	2	0	40	3	0	1	2	0	7	1	0	412	0	0
79	3	20	3	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	15	0	0	31	2	0	93	1	20	11	0	0	4	3	0	700	3	10
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
0	1	0	—			239	3	25	—			—			—			5	1	0	—			—			288	2	25
167	2	0	—			—			—			5	0	0	245	2	1	30	2	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	1,464	1	2
645	3	20	2	1	10	36	2	0	—			4	1	5	205	0	0	37	1	0	3	2	0	3	0	0	2,294	2	35
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			1	0	0	—			—			1	0	0
—			—			10	0	0	—			—			—			2	2	5	—			—			23	0	5
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			1	0	0	—			—			1	0	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			6	2	0	—			2	0	0	9	2	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			5	1	0	—			—			5	1	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			2	1	0	—			—			3	3	0
3	2	0	—			—			—			—			—			2	2	0	—			—			24	1	0
—			—			—			—			5	1	0	10	0	0	14	0	1	5	0	0	—			63	1	1
7	2	0	—			—			—			—			6	0	0	11	1	0	20	2	0	1	2	0	67	3	0
7	0	36	2	0	5	0	1	0	3	3	10	91	1	20	464	1	0	81	3	13	39	0	1	19	1	26	3,469	3	15
217	2	1	6	0	10	0	3	0	0	3	0	208	1	2	525	1	0	131	3	32	37	3	0	37	3	8	4,618	1	16
0	1	0	—			0	0	1	—			4	3	0	6	2	0	28	2	12	0	2	0	17	3	12	127	2	38
9	3	10	0	0	8	0	0	1	—			9	2	0	8	0	0	44	3	0	1	2	0	3	0	31	116	0	4
—			—			—			—			0	0	3	—			33	2	0	—			—			52	3	4
17	2	0	0	0	10	—			0	0	2	1	0	0	—			20	1	30	2	0	0	—			66	0	2
—			—			—			—			1	0	0	—			3	0	0	—			0	2	0	7	2	0
—			—			—			—			1	0	0	—			21	2	0	0	2	0	—			31	0	0
1,667	3	0	6	1	0	2	0	0	3	3	0	98	1	12	550	2	0	277	1	27	13	1	0	5	3	7	3,814	2	10
4,529	1	0	6	0	1	9	3	10	0	2	0	38	1	0	180	3	0	239	2	18	3	0	0	8	1	20	6,368	3	36
—			—			—			—			—			101	1	0	14	0	0	—			1	1	0	158	0	2
1	0	0	0	1	0	—			—			—			86	2	0	21	1	3	12	0	0	2	1	0	180	0	3
14	0	0	1	2	0	55	0	0	—			—			—			2	2	0	—			0	2	0	189	2	0
81	0	0	2	2	0	267	0	0	—			2	0	0	1	2	0	29	1	0	3	0	5	1	0	0	660	1	5
132	0	0	1	3	3	248	3	0	4	0	1	28	0	0	20	1	0	37	2	20	66	1	30	16	0	0	1,079	0	18
235	2	0	1	1	1	456	1	0	1	3	0	—			—			41	1	0	104	2	0	2	2	0	1,282	3	1
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			1	0	0	13	0	0	4	2	20	—			0	1	0	50	2	0
—			—			—			—			1	0	0	7	0	0	9	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	39	0	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			4	1	0	—			—			7	1	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
6	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	—			6	0	0	8	0	0	102	3	28	20	0	1	9	3	1	250	1	32
—			1	1	0	0	1	0	—			235	2	14	48	0	0	141	2	5	10	2	0	10	0	0	523	1	19
—			—			—			—			—			—			3	0	0	—			0	0	16	11	0	16
—			—			—			—			—			—			11	3	0	—			2	2	0	16	1	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—			—		
—			—			—			—			—			—			2	0	0	—			—			13	0	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			6	0	0	—			—			6	1	0
—			—			—			—			0	2	0	1	2	0	4	3	0	—			—			14	2	0
—			—			—			—			—			4	0	0	5	3	3	—			—			12	3	3
—			—			—			—			—			—			1	0	0	—			—			1	0	0
—			—			—			—			—			—			6	0	0	—			—			6	0	0
—			—			—			—			—			6	0	0	2	2	0	—			—			10	3	0
—			1	0	0	—			—			—			—			4	0	0	—			0	2	0	12	2	0
—			—			—			—			—			2	0	0	4	3	0	—			0	3	0	12	0	20
—			—			—			—			2	2	0	0	2	0	16	1	0	—			1	0	6	40	3	6
70	0	0	—			60	0	0	—			—			—			—			—			—			140	0	0
100	0	0	—			65	0	0	—			—			—			—			—			—			185	0	0
1	0	0	—			—			—			36	3	0	506	2	0	56	3	2	216	0	0	9	1	10	5,531	3	12
320	1	0	0	0	1	—			—			429	2	0	166	2	0	52	3	0	52	2	0	3	0	0	5,052	0	1
2,884	1	27	42	3	7	607	3	38	19	0	22	734	2	35	2,878	1	21	1,550	0	35	534	1	27	202	1	28	24,433	0	27
8,149	0	8	49	3	0	1,995	1	23	8	0	5	1,054	2	30	2,041	1	30	1,884	0	5	309	2	35	194	0	25	31,559	1	13
5,264	2	21	6	3	33	1,387	1	25	—			319	3	35	—			333	3	10	—			—			7,126	0	26
—			—			—			11	0	17	—			833	3	31	—			224	2	32	8	1	3	—		

QUEENSLAND.

This table being prepared, in the fullest sense of the term, as a comparative table, requires few comments at my hands. A glance at it shows at once the quality of land under cultivation in each police district of the Colony during the years 1866 and 1867, with a detail of crops.

I cannot, however, refrain from remarking upon the great increase that has taken place in the area of land under cultivation of sugar and cotton, the former showing a centesimal increase of 228·67 per cent. for the year 1867 over that of 1866, and the latter for the same period, a centesimal increase of 182·56 per cent.

As regards sugar, with the exception of some few plantations whose results are most encouraging, some little time must yet elapse before the cultivator can expect a return for his outlay and labour.

The actual return for last year is by no means unimportant, however, as it amounted to 338 tons of sugar, which may be valued at 12,000*l*., and 13,509 proof gallons of rum, whilst the average quality of both of these articles appears to have been unexceptionable, and the yield fully equal to those of older colonies possessed of the advantages of experience and cheap labour, which we have yet to obtain.

In reference to cotton, as the crop planted in 1867 will not be gathered until 1868, the value exported must not be measured by the total area returned as under crop, the results of which have yet to be obtained.

The following comparative table shows the quantity as well as the value of some of the more important articles of agricultural produce imported into the Colony during the years 1866 and 1867, which might, amongst many others, be produced in it.

Q.

—	1866.		1867.		Remarks.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
		£		£	
Wheat, bushels - - -	5,063	1,573	490	117	Vide Table of Imports.
Barley „ - - -	1,591	420	1,199	188	
Oats „ - - -	16,856	5,099	13,608	2,170	
Maize „ - - -	191,050	45,268	57,223	6,726	
Hay and Straw, bales - -	11,281	21,137	3,845	3,687	
Potatoes, cwt. - - -	78,668	28,503	52,844	10,182	
Flour, tons - - -	14,637	261,205	14,412	189,530	
Total - -	—	474,636	—	322,401	

It will be observed that a decrease has taken place in the imports of all the articles mentioned in the above table.

As this decrease is contemporaneous with an increase in the breadth of land under cultivation, and as there is no reason to suppose that the consumption within the Colony of the articles referred to has in any way materially decreased, it is but reasonable to infer that our agriculturists, besides supporting themselves, are making rapid advances towards supplying the demands of the Colony, a result in every way advantageous to us.

TRADE.

The estimated value of the exports and imports by sea of the year is—

	£
Imports by sea - - - - - -	1,747,735
Exports by sea - - - - - -	2,198,609

These amounts do not agree with those published at pages 113 and 117 of the Register, those tables having been printed before the returns from Mackay arrived, which returns show an import of goods to the value of 16,571*l*., and an export of goods valued at 38,269*l*.

Of the overland trade with the neighbouring colonies no record is at present obtainable.

Comparing the above returns with those for the year 1866, it appears that, during the year 1867, the imports have diminished in value by 720,172*l*., or at the rate of 29·18 per cent. on the imports of the year 1866. The exports have increased in value by 823,118*l*., or at the rate of 60·88 per cent. on the exports of the year 1866.

A further examination of the trade returns for the last two years shows that the exportation of goods which are the produce or the manufacture of Queensland have increased in estimated value, during the year 1867, by the sum of 867,669*l*., or at the rate of 67·07 per cent. Since the year 1860, that is, since Queensland became separated from New South Wales, the exports have yearly increased; the increase, however, of

the year 1867 far surpasses the increase of any previous year, and must be considered as highly satisfactory. The exportation of goods, the produce or manufacture of other countries or colonies, has decreased by the sum of 35,551*l.*, or at the rate of 48·82 per cent. on the value of similar exports in the year 1866.

R.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the COLONY of QUEENSLAND, from and to each Country, in the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867.

—	Year.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.	Increase per cent.* or Decrease per cent.†	
				Imports.	Exports.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
Great Britain	1860	56,730 0 0	—	—	—
	1861	90,905 0 0	119,515 0 0	* 60·24	—
	1862	215,509 0 0	238,553 0 0	*137·07	* 99·60
	1863	365,093 0 0	233,392 0 0	* 69·41	† 21·63
	1864	506,697 0 0	354,636 0 0	* 38·79	* 51·95
	1865	713,545 0 0	240,550 0 0	* 40·82	† 32·17
	1866	742,884 0 0	321,939 0 0	* 4·11	* 33·83
	1867	474,483 0 0	505,442 0 0	36·13	* 56·99
Australian Colonies and New Zealand	1860	523,165 0 0	161,546 0 0	—	—
	1861	874,797 13 11	589,633 15 0	* 67·21	*264·99
	1862	1,100,935 0 0	550,839 0 0	* 25·85	† 6·58
	1863	1,335,606 0 0	649,299 0 0	* 21·32	* 17·87
	1864	1,746,871 0 0	892,320 0 0	* 30·79	* 37·43
	1865	1,783,737 0 0	912,824 0 0	* 2·11	* 2·29
	1866	1,711,895 0 0	1,027,918 0 0	† 4·03	* 12·61
	1867	1,269,744 0 0	1,688,833 0 0	† 25·83	* 64·30
Germany	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,180 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	4,688 0 0	—	* 29·73	—
	1863	12,539 0 0	—	* 16·53	—
	1864	7,370 0 0	—	† 41·22	—
	1865	8,277 0 0	—	* 12·30	—
	1866	3,921 0 0	—	† 52·63	—
	1867	—	—	—	—
India, China, Ceylon, Batavia, Penang, and Guam.	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	450 0 0	—	* 44·69
	1862	3 0 0	1,876 0 0	—	*316·89
	1863	—	4,521 0 0	—	*140·99
	1864	—	94 0 0	—	† 97·92
	1865	—	13 0 0	—	† 86·17
	1866	9,059 0 0	16,396 0 0	—	*126,023·08
	1867	—	—	—	—
South America	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	—	1,968 0 0	—	—
	1863	—	706 0 0	—	† 64·13
	1864	6,880 0 0	4 0 0	—	† 99·43
	1865	—	77 0 0	—	—
	1866	—	88 0 0	—	* 14·29
	1867	—	58 0 0	—	† 34·09
New Caledonia	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	2,394 0 0	—	—	—
	1863	—	—	—	—
	1864	36 0 0	—	—	—
	1865	—	—	—	—
	1866	—	150 0 0	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—
South Sea Islands and Coral Sea Fishery.	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,068 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	—	—	—	—
	1863	25 0 0	463 0 0	—	—
	1864	100 0 0	—	*300·00	—
	1865	—	—	—	—
	1866	148 0 0	—	—	—
	1867	290 0 0	215 0 0	* 95·94	—
Totals	1860	742,023 0 0	523,476 0 0	—	—
	1861	967,950 13 11	709,598 15 0	* 30·45	* 35·56
	1862	1,323,509 0 0	793,236 0 0	* 36·73	* 11·79
	1863	1,713,263 0 0	888,381 0 0	* 29·45	* 11·99
	1864	2,267,954 0 0	1,247,054 0 0	* 32·38	* 40·37
	1865	2,505,559 0 0	1,153,464 0 0	* 10·48	† 7·55
	1866	2,467,907 0 0	1,366,491 0 0	† 1·50	* 18·46
	1867	1,747,737 0 0	2,198,609 0 0	† 29·18	* 60·88

QUEENSLAND.

By the above table it appears that the direct trade of the Colony with Great Britain has decreased under the head of imports at the rate of 36·13 per cent., and increased under the head of exports at the rate of 56·99 per cent Trade with the Australian Colonies has, under the head of imports, diminished at the rate of 25·83, and increased under the head of exports at the rate of 64·30 per cent.

The following table shows the yearly quantity and estimated value of wool exported from Queensland since its formation as a Colony :—

S.

YEARLY EXPORTS of WOOL.

—	To Great Britain.		To New South Wales.		Total.	
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
1860	—	—	5,007,167	444,188	5,007,167	444,188
1861	1,415,991	109,425	5,578,042	503,649	6,994,033	613,074
1862	2,522,662	195,506	5,540,950	431,676	8,063,612	627,182
1863	2,502,064	213,688	8,166,980	563,088	10,669,044	776,776
1864	3,932,715	337,818	10,074,074	699,845	14,006,789	1,037,663
1865	2,507,579	197,826	9,744,262	687,473	12,251,841	885,299
1866 Clean	3,169,768	272,754	8,830,457	613,999	14,346,239	987,659
1866 Greasy	259,358	16,462	2,086,656	84,444		
1867 Clean	5,435,161	446,987	10,080,802	722,812	21,554,557	1,462,209
1867 Greasy	512,168	22,461	5,526,426	269,949		

Upon perusing the foregoing table, it will be seen that the export of wool during the year 1867 was considerably larger than in any previous year. The difference in quantity shipped was 7,208,318 lbs., being an increase at the rate of 50·25 per cent. on the quantity exported in the year 1866. The increase in the estimated value is 431,762*l.*, being at the rate of 48·05 per cent. on the estimated value of the previous year. The quantity and estimated value of cotton exported in 1867 is greater than that of the previous year. The quantity shipped in 1867 was 412,941 lbs., and its estimated value 26,631*l.*, showing an increase on the previous year of 205,669 lbs.; the exports in that year being 207,272 lbs., and the estimated value 19,618*l.* The difference observable in the respective rates of increase of the quantity and value of cotton shipped arises from a smaller rate of value per lb. having been given to cotton in the year 1867.

Next to wool, the largest export of Queensland produce is to be found under the head "gold dust," the quantity exported during the year 1867 being 49,091 ozs. 17 dwts., of the value of 189,248*l.*, being an actual increase in value of 103,727*l.* over that of 1866, and a centesimal increase of 121·18 per cent. The value of copper ore exported shows a centesimal increase of 91·75 per cent.; the quantity exported in 1866 being valued at 33,918*l.*, while that exported in 1867 was valued at 66,038*l.* A slight increase is perceptible in the number of live stock exported during the year, the estimated value of such being 220,933*l.* as against 199,087*l.* of the previous year.

The value of the exports and imports by sea, from or to each port in the Colony, is given in the following table :—

T.

Port.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
Albany	377	—	377
Baffle Creek	2,289	24,819	27,108
Brisbane	1,245,897	1,075,971	2,321,868
Cleveland Bay	26,024	35,240	61,264
Hinchinbrook	—	—	Nil.
Maryborough	68,361	168,888	237,249
Pioneer River	16,571	38,269	54,840
Port Curtis	13,064	38,445	51,509
Port Denison	39,658	52,120	91,778
Rockhampton	313,999	511,667	825,666
St. Lawrence	5,913	36,063	41,976
Sweer's Island	15,582	8,118	23,700
	1,747,735	1,989,600	
EXPORTED BORDERWISE.			
Live Stock	—	209,009	209,009
Total £	1,747,735	2,198,609	3,946,344

REVENUE.

U.

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the Year ending 31st December 1867.

Receipts during the Year, including Land Orders received in payment of Land purchased from the Crown.	Expenditure during the Year, including Land Orders negotiated.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
669,041 8 3	719,976 11 3

The expenditure of the year 1867, charged to the consolidated revenue fund, exceeds the receipts of that year by the sum of 50,935*l.* 3*s.*

Comparing the above receipts and expenditure with those of the year 1866, the following are the total results :—

V.

—	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance to Credit* or to Debit† of Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1866 - - - - -	592,968 10 10	696,828 15 4	† 103,860 4 6
1867 - - - - -	669,041 8 3	719,976 11 3	† 50,935 3 3
Increase in 1867 - - - -	76,072 17 5	23,147 15 11	—

Although the foregoing statement still shows an excess of expenditure over that of receipts, it is satisfactory to observe that the expenditure is not increasing in the same ratio as receipts; a very marked difference being observable in the years 1866 and 1867; the increase of receipts for the latter year being at the rate of 12·83 per cent., whilst the increase of expenditure was only at the rate of 3·32 per cent., showing a difference in favour of receipts of 9·51 per cent.

The following table is a comparative statement of revenue received during the years 1866 and 1867 :—

W.

Head of Revenue.	1866.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Increase* or Decrease.†
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Customs - - - -	223,384 13 11	283,366 10 11	59,981 17 0	—	* 26·85
Stamp Duty - - -	4,255 9 2	29,880 11 5	25,625 2 3	—	*602·23
Gold - - - -	2,987 15 10	5,287 8 2	2,299 12 4	—	* 76·97
Land Revenue - - -	248,722 0 9	225,951 14 9	—	22,770 6 0	† 9·15
Postage - - - -	19,570 3 4	19,219 10 11	—	350 12 5	† 1·79
Commission on Post Office Orders	486 15 6	896 17 7	410 2 1	—	* 84·36
Licenses - - - -	22,637 6 6	21,543 4 4	—	1,094 2 2	† 4·83
Fees of Office - - -	12,587 5 11	9,893 15 3	—	2,693 10 8	† 21·39
Fines and Forfeitures - -	2,569 7 6	1,503 3 3	—	1,066 4 3	†41 ·49
Rents (exclusive of land) - -	591 13 10	1,161 0 11	569 7 1	—	* 96·27
Harbour Dues and Fees - -	6,482 5 0	4,647 12 8	—	1,834 12 4	† 28·29
Railway Receipts - -	26,504 14 5	38,447 5 7	11,942 11 2	—	* 45·06
Civil Service Superannuation Fund	2,251 4 3	2,424 3 2	172 18 11	—	* 76·41
Electric Telegraph Receipts -	10,858 15 7	11,119 2 1	260 6 6	—	* 2·39
Miscellaneous Receipts - -	9,078 19 4	13,699 7 3	4,620 7 11	—	* 50·89
	592,968 10 10	669,041 8 3	105,882 5 3	29,809 7 10	
Deduct Decrease -	—	—	29,809 7 10	—	
Net Increase - -	—	—	76,072 17 5	—	* 12·83

QUEENSLAND.

The above receipts, compared with the mean population of the Colony, for each of the years 1866 and 1867, are, for the year 1866, at the rate 6*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* per head, and, for the year 1867, at the rate of 6*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* per head.

REVENUE DERIVED FROM THE CROWN LANDS OF THE COLONY.

The following is a return of the amounts received in payment for land sold by the Crown, during each of the seven years of the Colony's existence, distinguishing cash payments from payments made in land orders:—

X.

Year.	Amount received in Cash.	Amount received in Land Orders.	Total Amount received from the Sale of Crown Lands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860 -	45,955 7 5	—	45,955 7 5
1861 -	68,700 13 3	—	68,700 13 3
1862 -	59,381 15 0	51,144 17 4	110,526 12 4
1863 -	40,007 2 3	95,607 15 3	135,614 17 6
1864 -	57,698 17 11	133,031 3 4	190,730 1 3
1865 -	59,461 0 0	158,970 9 1	218,431 9 1
1866 -	29,393 18 7	102,217 5 11	131,611 4 6
1867 -	15,083 6 0	54,453 8 9	69,536 14 9
Decrease in 1867 -	14,310 12 7	47,763 17 2	62,074 9 9
Centesimal decrease -	48·68	46·73	47·16

By the above table the year 1867 shows a serious falling off in receipts derived from the sale of Crown lands.

RENTS AND ASSESSMENTS.

The following table shows the receipts for rents and assessments during the last eight years. Receipts from these sources continue to increase steadily year by year; the increase for the year 1867 over that of the previous one being at the rate of 33·56 per cent.:—

1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
55,617 7 3	64,552 3 6	82,059 6 7	87,821 17 7	90,730 9 5	105,216 1 6	117,110 16 3	156,415 0 0

REVENUE DERIVED FROM DUTIES COLLECTED BY THE CUSTOMS.

The following table shows the amount collected by the Customs during each of the last eight years, and the rateable proportion each year's collection bears to the mean population of such year:—

Y.

Year.	Mean Population of the Year.	Customs Receipts.	Average per Head of the mean Population.	Remarks. Acts of the Queensland Parliament, imposing additional Customs Duties.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860 -	27,017	59,210 3 7	2 3 9¾	
1861 -	31,886	71,678 18 11	2 5 7	
1862 -	40,593	96,107 11 8	2 7 4¼	
1863 -	53,970	125,199 6 11	2 6 4¾	
1864 -	67,181	153,341 19 6	2 5 7¾	28 Vict., No. 16, Export tax on Gold.
1865 -	80,905	195,540 15 1	2 8 4·06	29 Vict., No. 2, Increased import duties on Wines and Spirits.
1866 -	91,973	223,384 13 11	2 8 6·75	30 Vict., No. 9 and No. 15, *Ad valorem* and other import duties.
1867 -	98,025	283,366 10 11	2 17 9¾	

It will be seen from the foregoing that the average receipt per head of the mean population of the year is considerably greater than that of any previous year. The increase is to be accounted for owing to the extra duties imposed by the ad valorem and other import duties Acts (30 Vict., Nos. 9 and 15).

Table Z. is published in a comparative form for the purpose of showing the different amounts paid as Customs duties for the years 1866 and 1867, as well as specifying the articles upon which such duties were paid. It also tends to show the effect the ad valorem and other import duties Acts have had upon the revenue derivable from the Customs.

Z.

Head of Revenue.	1866.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Spirits	118,228 3 5	110,638 7 10	—	7,589 15 7
Wine	12,659 15 5	14,169 15 6	1,510 0 1	—
Ale, Porter, &c.	11,532 11 6	10,315 2 6	—	1,217 9 0
Cider, Perry, &c.	3 12 0	0 3 0	—	3 9 0
Vinegar	158 7 9	589 16 11	431 9 2	—
Tobacco	29,449 19 4	36,076 1 8	6,626 2 4	—
Opium	1,415 5 2	3,199 0 0	1,783 14 10	—
Tea	13,450 6 9	24,267 10 9	10,817 4 0	—
Sugar and Molasses	17,245 3 1	17,585 16 11	340 13 10	—
Coffee and Chicory	2,297 5 10	2,336 5 7	38 19 9	—
Chocolate and Cocoa	84 17 4	173 12 0	88 14 8	—
Dried Fruits	671 8 8	2,850 18 7	2,179 9 11	—
Rice	379 2 11	738 4 10	359 1 11	—
Salt	667 15 4	5,065 6 4	4,397 11 0	—
Ad valorem Duties	15,140 19 5	55,360 8 6	40,219 9 1	—
Total £	223,384 13 11	283,366 10 11	68,792 10 7	8,810 13 7
Deduct Increase	—	—	8,810 13 7	
Net Increase	—	—	59,981 17 0	

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony amounted, on the 31st December 1867, to the sum of 3,344,000*l.*, of which sum 2,905,500*l.* was created by loans, and 438,500*l.* under the Treasury Bills Acts of 1866, viz., 30 Vict., No. 8, and 30 Vict., No. 10. The interest on the loans amounted to 174,300*l.*, and on the Treasury Bills to the sum of 43,850*l.*, in all 218,180*l.*, being at the rate of 2*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per head of the estimated mean population of the year.

Attached to this report is a table containing a statistical view of the Colony from 1860 to the end of 1867,—a table which contains a large amount of information on subjects of great importance to all interested in the Colony, and which cannot fail to be the means of supplying those who peruse it with much reliable data without the trouble of reading through the various tables from which the return is compiled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDK. RAWLINS,
Registrar General.

STATISTICAL VIEW of QUEENSLAND since

Year.	Population.					Moral and Intellectual Progress.						Crown Lands.			
						Education.		Mechanics' Institutes.		Charitable Institutions.					
	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Population on 31st December.	Schools.	Scholars.	Subscribers	Volumes in Library.	Number.	Persons relieved.	Quantity sold.	Amount realized.	Number of Squating Runs.	Area leased.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	£	No.	Acres.
1860	1,236	278	478	—	28,056	41	1,890	—	—	6	397	23,587	37,978	1,300	41,027,200
1861	1,423	320	500	—	34,367	43	2,438	536	4,890	6	491	56,849	94,063	1,727	51,811,200
1862	1,702	570	797	9,805	45,077	54	3,060	779	4,232	6	648	67,873	106,019	1,926	57,200,000
1863	2,221	774	1,275	14,394	61,640	72	5,452	797	5,369	6	1,075	62,948	108,828	2,545	74,286,080
1864	2,883	951	1,446	10,959	74,036	89	6,858	753	6,692	7	1,447	139,814	210,725	2,849	84,729,760
1865	3,532	1,074	1,733	11,969	87,804	101	9,091	1,133	6,807	7	1,626	145,799	224,403	3,236	98,634,880
1866	4,127	1,068	2,362	8,396	96,201	129	10,955	1,216	8,916	12	2,546	113,598	141,325	3,470	106,123,520
1867	4,476	935	1,745	917	99,849	148	11,393	1,072	9,068	14	1,743	41,765	49,837	3,619	171,093,920

INTERCHANGE.

Year.	Postal.					Shipping.				Exports (Seaward) the					
						Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Gold.	
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Money Orders.	Amount.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Lbs.	£	Tons.	£	ozs.	£
1860	199,168	149,236	2,956	—	—	210	45,736	183	39,503	5,007,167	444,188	640	25,628	4,127	14,576
1861	395,861	315,692	3,555	—	—	251	57,377	234	51,827	6,994,033	613,074	1,247	48,009	1,077	3,928
1862	1,027,624	610,320	7,758	574	2,238	330	77,312	305	71,981	8,063,612	627,182	1,503	50,979	189	625
1863	898,716	776,198	13,878	3,698	15,094	389	104,421	353	98,844	10,669,044	776,776	883	30,716	3,936	14,802
1864	870,807	874,118	11,803	6,598	27,736	431	129,687	396	116,702	14,006,789	1,037,663	1,137	32,999	22,037	83,292
1865	1,166,241	779,436	17,160	9,841	41,592	497	173,227	488	167,153	12,251,841	885,299	1,940	57,155	25,338	92,938
1866	1,327,365	802,929	31,764	12,158	51,708	569	197,665	556	195,991	14,346,239	987,659	1,300	53,597	22,916	85,561
1867	1,897,779	1,413,447	46,686	16,050	74,042	477	149,876	459	145,301	21,554,557	1,462,209	2,733	90,293	49,091	189,248

BRISBANE, the capital of Queensland, is situated in latitude 27° 5′ south, longitude 153° east; height above the sea, 70 feet. During the year 1867, rain fell on 112 days; rainfall, 61·04 inches; evaporation, 42·313 inches. The highest reading of the thermometer, in the shade, was in the month of November, 104·5; the lowest in the month of August, 39·9; mean temperature of the year, 70·1. The north-east is the prevailing wind.

Year.	Accumulation.							
	Banks.						Savings Banks.	
	Note Circulation.	Deposits on 31st December.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Advances.	Total Assets.	Number of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st December.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	£
1860	42,765	286,917	332,173	63,843	490,861	574,661	163	7,545
1861	63,104	322,310	390,238	84,916	618,315	730,917	242	12,192
1862	87,103	341,155	442,245	105,268	751,678	888,879	489	20,562
1863	107,634	472,765	598,941	128,632	1,055,989	1,235,961	655	26,789
1864	137,799	757,153	928,409	178,503	1,571,188	1,825,782	876	30,662
1865	181,615	770,912	1,000,924	193,017	2,023,207	2,281,461	1,798	56,516
1866	126,957	750,604	905,668	218,656	1,906,579	2,225,436	2,466	86,499
1867	125,272	868,816	1,025,286	307,907	1,586,033	2,000,558	3,129	120,104

Separation from New South Wales.

Production.

Land under Crop.			Live Stock.				Mills, Manufactories, Works, &c.	Mining.						Year.
								Gold.		Copper.		Coal.		
Under Cotton.	Under Sugar Cane.	Total Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.		Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	
Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	ozs.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	
14	—	3,353	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	13	—	—	—	—	12,327	9,244	1860
395	—	4,440	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	15	—	—	49	1,450	14,212	9,920	1861
392	—	6,067	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	20	—	—	—	—	24,067	19,253	1862
2,021	—	11,262	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	23	8,000	30,000	1,100	30,000	2,400	1,500	1863
479	93	12,006	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066	34	—	—	2,000	60,000	25,000	15,000	1864
477	449	14,414	51,091	848,346	6,594,966	14,888	44	—	—	1,333	40,000	30,000	18,750	1865
2,884	607	24,433	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	79	21,590	81,111	3,168	95,000	39,316	21,049	1866
8,149	1,995	31,559	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142	90	48,213	170,090	6,140	84,200	17,988	9,566	1867

Interchange.

Produce of Queensland.										Imports.	Exports.	Railways.		Electric Telegraph.		Year.
Copper.		Cotton.		Live Stock.		Meat.		Timber (Value).	Coal (Value).	Total Value.	Total Value.	Miles open.	Number of Passengers.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Fresh and Preserved.	Extract.									
Cwt.	£	Lbs.	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	No.	No.	No.	
—	50	—	—	—	510	5,356	—	2,442	646	742,023	523,477	—	—	—	—	1860
360	644	—	4	3,103	1,845	1,198	—	2,629	1,870	967,951	709,599	—	—	169	5,678	1861
5,360	10,332	14,344	1,423	1,320	1,467	510	—	3,066	3,642	1,323,509	793,236	—	—	169	16,833	1862
173	296	31,557	3,056	659	1,469	258	—	5,482	4,279	1,713,263	888,381	—	—	221	19,219	1863
29	146	38,730	4,186	274	1,208	229	—	8,039	141	2,267,954	1,247,054	—	—	298	27,246	1864
4,424	18,440	145,820	12,197	2,175	6,404	765	—	8,383	3	2,505,559	1,153,464	21	17,297	1,131	47,697	1865
8,820	33,918	207,272	19,618	9,139	38,948	14,468	2,800	13,625	32	2,467,907	1,366,491	50	38,569	1,565	64,372	1866
17,920	66,038	412,941	26,631	461,695	220,933	3,298	23,150	17,802	—	1,747,735	2,198,609	136	18,392	1,752	63,412	1867

Finance.

Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loans authorized.	Expenditure on Loan Account.	Land Orders.		Year.
				Issued.	Negotiated.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	
178,589	161,503	—	19,384	—	—	1860
238,238	255,180	123,800	43,826	18,575	13,337	1861
295,286	317,026	—	50,290	90,383	51,144	1862
295,215	355,791	707,436	48,610	166,471	95,607	1863
369,425	439,034	1,019,000	401,421	114,718	133,031	1864
472,451	459,025	1,170,950	685,246	227,796	192,541	1865
490,269	594,130	300,000	965,346	151,154	151,281	1866
610,860	661,795	—	693,428	53,181	58,181	1867

Somerset, the most northerly settlement of the colony, is situated at the extremity of the York peninsula, in latitude 10° 44′ south, longitude 142° 35′ 48″ east; height above the sea, 70 feet. There are considerable fluctuations in the annual amount of rainfalls—the rainfall for 1865 being 53·06 inches, while the rainfall for 1866 amounted to 103·35 inches. The mean annual temperature is 80·2. The mean diurnal range 10·5. The south-east wind prevails.

Fredk. Rawlins,
Registrar General.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

(No Report has been received for 1867.)

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
July 20, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to append hereto the statistics of this Colony for the past year 1867.

In these some improvements and additions which the experience of the preceding year has suggested have been introduced, and some corrections have been made.

It is gratifying to me to find, that although some inaccuracies have been discovered in my first year's work, they are not of sufficient importance to affect its usefulness as a statistical record. I have observed with some satisfaction the increased value which seems to be attached to these publications; for it can hardly be questioned that a careful consideration and "gathering up" of the facts which these records of our national life present, in order to obtain a correct knowledge of our capabilities and deficiencies, is the first step towards the development of the now neglected resources of this Colony. From several quarters I have had spontaneous offers of assistance in the way of supplying additional matter; and I take this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments to those who made them, and also to all who kindly responded to appeals made to them for extra-official information.

I am sorry to say, however, that in some cases the greatest trouble has been experienced in obtaining the information required. Any such neglect to furnish returns, as well as any want of accuracy in making them up, increase, to an extent that can hardly be conceived by any one who has not experienced it, the labour and anxiety of compiling these Statistics; and I shall be glad indeed if this reference to the inconvenience may have the effect of producing an improvement in this respect on future occasions.

I.—POPULATION.

Population.

The population, as estimated at the end of the year 1867, was 98,455, being an increase upon that of the preceding year of 1,087 souls, or 1·116 per cent. In 1866 the rate of increase was 2·28 per cent.; so that it has been lessening by about one half. In England, in 1867 it was 1·037 per cent.; in Victoria, 2·514 per cent.; in New South Wales (1866), 4·87 per cent.; in South Australia (average for three years), about 5 per cent.;* in Queensland (1866), 9·57 per cent.

On reference to the Return of Immigration and Emigration during the year, it will be found that there was an actual loss of population, by persons leaving the Colony, to the extent of 466; the number of departures having by so many exceeded the number of arrivals. In 1866 there appeared to be an increase of population by arrivals of 690 souls; but in my Report for that year I expressed my belief that most of these would "appear in the next year among the departures, as being visitors from the other colonies, "who would return thither in the early part of the next year." This exodus now appears to have taken place.

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* Report of Government Statist for 1866.

The excess of births over deaths in 1867 was 1,558.* The following table will show how the rate of increase from this source has varied during the past ten years:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase per Cent. of Population.	Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase per Cent. of Population.
1858 - -	3,138	1,560	1·869	1863 - -	2,998	1,418	1·726
1859 - -	3,244	1,406	2·126	1864 - -	3,031	1,433	1·713
1860 - -	3,238	1,740	1·701	1865 - -	3,069	1,263	1·897
1861 - -	3,207	1,472	1·923	1866 - -	2,805	1,323	1·522
1862 -	3,149	1,357	1·975	1867 - -	2,971	1,413	1·582
Mean -	—	—	1·919	Mean -	—	—	16·88

It thus appears, that in the latter half of the past decenniad the natural ratio of increase had diminished by 0·231, or 12·037 per cent., as regards the ratio for the former half. If the same law of decrease should continue to prevail, in the same degree, in little more than seven years hence all accession to the population from excess of births over deaths would entirely cease, that is, the death-rate would equal the birth-rate, and unless the tide of immigration should set towards this Colony, the population would after that time begin to decrease. Under the head of "Vital Statistics," I remarked, last year:— "The births, therefore, are diminishing more rapidly than the deaths; so that, unless "this effect be interrupted by external causes, the natural increase to the population will "gradually become less and less." The results deduced from the above table afford additional evidence to the truth of this fact. We need not go far to seek for the cause of this declension. A constant stream of emigration is going on, draining the Colony of the more vigorous and enterprising portion of its people—the most valuable part—and leaving behind only the aged and children.

This is an evil which has frequently been made the subject of discussion, and various remedies have been suggested. But it is evident that no direct remedy can be applied. The influx and efflux of population, no less than trade, is governed by certain laws, and subject to certain conditions. Those laws, indeed, cannot be controlled; yet the conditions which modify their operation may sometimes, by a wise and far-seeing course of procedure, be so far regulated as to mitigate a threatened evil. There are, if I mistake not, some causes (which will be more particularly specified under another division) already at work which may be expected before long to bring about a reaction. In the mean time it is incumbent on all who are anxious for the prosperity of this Colony, by every means in their power, to advance the cause of moral, intellectual, and material progress. So long as Tasmania lags behind her neighbours in the exhibition of mental activity, and in the application of science to the common purposes of life, so long will her life-blood be drained away, and the flower of her youth be driven to other shores, to take that place in the world's race of progress which is denied to them in a country where utter stagnation has hitherto blocked up every avenue to material improvement. As production increases so will population increase also, and the most obvious way to bring about such a desirable result is to create, by the judicious employment of capital, such an increased demand for labour that an additional supply may be required in order to satisfy it.

During the year 3,559 persons arrived in the Colony (including 56 Bounty Immigrants), and 4,025 left it; being a loss to the population, as already mentioned, of 466 souls.

II.—Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.

The value of the imports in 1867 amounted to 856,348*l.*, and of the exports to 790,494, the former exceeding the latter by 65,854*l.* As compared with the figures of the preceding year, there was a decrease of 25,759*l.* on the imports, and of 44,112*l.* on the exports.

The imports in 1867 were at the rate of 8*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.* per head; the exports at the rate of 8*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* per head. In 1866, the rates per head were, imports, 9*l.* 1*s.* 2¼*d.*; exports, 8*l.* 11*s.* 5¼*d.*

* Not including the deaths which took place beyond the limits of the colony.

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The exports, as will be seen by the subjoined table, which shows the variations in our commerce for the last 10 years, were less in 1867 than in any of the nine preceding years —indeed they have not been so limited since 1851.

Years.	Imports.			Exports.		
	Total Value.	Difference.		Total Value.	Difference.	
		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1858 - - -	1,328,612	—	—	1,151,609	—	—
1859 - - -	1,163,907	—	164,705	1,193,898	42,289	—
1860 - - -	1,068,411	—	95,496	962,170	—	231,728
1861 - - -	954,517*	—	113,894	905,463	—	56,707
1862 - - -	857,423	—	97,094	919,649	14,186	—
1863 - - -	902,940	45,517	—	999,511	79,862	—
1864 - - -	908,265	5,325	—	975,730	—	23,781
1865 - - -	762,375	—	145,890	880,965	—	94,765
1866 - - -	882,107	119,732	—	834,606	—	46,359
1867 - - -	856,348	—	25,759	790,494	—	44,112

It will be observed that in 1865, the imports were extremely low—indeed, at their very lowest; in 1866, they exceeded those of the previous year by 119,732*l.* The natural consequence of this was a corresponding falling off in the quantity of goods imported in 1867, to the extent of 25,759.

The constant falling off in the export trade is matter of serious consideration. For although it is perfectly true that the wealth of a country is not to be measured by the excess of exports over imports, still in a Colony like this, where the exports consist, not of articles manufactured from raw materials brought from abroad, but chiefly of those which are produced directly from the soil, such as grain, wool, fruit, hops, and timber, it is evident that a decline in the exports must indicate a decline in the quantity of produce raised from the soil, and a corresponding retrogression of the agricultural and pastoral interests—locally the two great sources of production. It is important, too, to observe that while the profits derived from imported goods benefit the non-producing† classes only, those arising from the export of articles of colonial production go into the pockets of the producers (besides affording employment to labour and a second or third profit to non-producers), and thus tend to retain and attract the most valuable part of the population of a country.

The imports and exports in 1867 were distributed among the different countries thus :—

—	Imports.	Exports.	Proportion per Cent. of Total.	
			Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	299,892	378,532	35·02	47·89
Victoria - -	432,347	223,879	50·49	28·32
New South Wales -	49,715	70,157	5·80	8·88
South Australia -	—	26,260	—	3·32
Queensland - -	8,875	14,076	1·04	1·78
New Zealand -	5,058	75,057	0·59	9·49
Mauritius - -	54,051	2,533	6·31	0·32
Foo Chow Foo -	6,410	—	0·75	—

A comparison of this table with the corresponding one for 1866 shows that with the United Kingdom both our import and export trade has considerably increased; with

* In the statistics of this year, p. 16, there is an error of 1,000*l.* in the addition, which was not observed last year.

† I use the term "non-producing classes" here in a popular sense, not as synonymous with "unproductive labour" as defined by Mr. J. S. Mill, Principles of Political Economy, vol. I., p. 61.

Victoria it has in both cases diminished; with New South Wales the import trade has diminished, the export has slightly increased; with South Australia (from which there are no imports direct) the exports have increased; with Queensland the import trade has increased, the export has diminished; with New Zealand the trade generally has increased to a considerable extent; with Mauritius, as might be expected in consequence of the fever which raged there during the past year, trade has declined.

In regard to our commercial relations with the United Kingdom and Victoria it should be observed, that the above figures are somewhat deceptive, inasmuch as a considerable part of our imports from the former are brought, not to this Colony direct, but by way of Victoria, and a proportionate part ought therefore to be transferred from the one to the other. Measures have been taken to remove this defect in the Customs returns for the current year, and also to render them more perfect in some other respects.

EXPORTS of certain articles stated in the Customs Returns to be the produce and manufacture of the Colony, in the year 1867.

Articles.	No. or Quantity.	Value.	Articles.	No. or Quantity.	Value.
		£			£
Bark, tons	6,194	19,152	Naphtha, galls.	174	25
Biscuits, pkgs.	80	63	Oil, sperm, tuns	241¾	25,870
Beef and provisions, ditto	246	1,429	Oysters, crayfish, and fish, pkgs.	368	1,084
Bacon and hams, cwt.	139		Eggs, pkgs.	813	1,590
Bones, hoofs, hides, & skins	9,300	625	Saddlery, ditto	6	50
Boots and shoes, pkgs.	4	115	Seed, grass, bushels	4,796	1,284
Bran, bushels	73,605	3,777	Seeds, plants, &c., pkgs	3,736	4,459
Sharps and pollard, ditto	185	42	Stone, tons	1,119	2,580
Bricks, No.	30,434	126	Timber—		
Butter and Cheese, pkgs.	211	19,359	Battens, feet	22,427	75
Ditto, cwt.	2,099		Laths and shingles, No.	4,520,700	1,945
Candles and Tallow, lbs.	10,350	845	Palings, ditto	7,602,448	33,942
Ditto, pkgs.	231		Posts and rails, ditto	67,420	877
Carts and carriages	13	630	Sawn timber, ditto	4,369,293	13,592
Charcoal, bags	314	35	Treenails and staves, ditto.	148,235	1,180
Flour, tons	3,226	32,595	Logs and piles, ditto	12,320	136
Fruit and preserves, pkgs.	92,989	34,952	Vegetables—		
Fruit, green, bushels	158,450	49,252	Carrots, cwts.	1,205	230
Furniture, pkgs.	13	75	Onions, ditto	16,411	4,922
Fire clay, bags	113	25	Potatoes, tons	9,512¼	17,211
Grain—			Others, pkgs.	9	5
Oats, bushels	188,826	20,428	Peas and beans, bshls.	2,738	440
Wheat, ditto	226,935	37,599	Vinegar, pkgs.	133	325
Barley, ditto	704	196	Whalebone, pkgs.	22	305
Gold, ozs.	345½	1,260	Wool, lbs.	4,686,224	378,977
Hay and chaff, tons	843½	4,157	Flax, cwt.	3	5
Hides, skins, leather, pkgs.	2,427	15,864	Honey, lbs.	108	7
Hops, lbs.	165,870	13,730	Lard, ditto	300	15
Live Stock—			Manure, tons	5	30
Cattle, No.	4	30	Mutton Birds, No.	10,100	103
Horses, ditto	665	17,150	Natural curiosities, pkg.	1	7
Pigs, ditto	253	455	Oatmeal, tons	16	451
Sheep, ditto	2,545	6,540	Seal skins, No.	27	35
Deer, ditto	5	20	Willows, pkgs.	222	203
Dogs, ditto	5	5			
Kangaroo, ditto	3	10	Total		£773,796
Poultry, crates	623	628			
Malt liquor, galls.	3,511	537			
Medicines, pkgs.	24	130			

Comparing the values of some of the principal exports, as shown in the above return, with those for previous years, we arrive at the following results. Bark appears to have been exported in larger quantities than in any of the last eleven years. Beef and provisions were much less than in last year, though more than in 1865. In salt meat, Tasmania can scarcely compete with the Australian Colonies, but in hams and bacon, as was shown in last year's report, there is a large market for her surplus in the neighbour-

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ing colonies. Butter and cheese were less than in the two preceding years; breadstuffs, on the contrary, were nearly double the value of the exports in those years. Oats and barley have, on the whole, shown a constant decrease since 1857 (the furthest date to which it is convenient to extend the comparison), being less in 1867 than one half of the value of the exports in 1864, the next lowest value in the eleven years. Supposing the prices to be nearly the same, more than seven times as much oats and barley were exported in 1857 as in 1867. Hay and chaff have diminished considerably compared with the value 10 or 11 years ago, but in the last few years there is no striking variation. Hides, skins, and leather show a higher value than in any of the last 11 years. The production of hops is very rapidly increasing. In 1867 the exports were valued at 13,730*l.*, the maximum in the previous years being 6,695*l.* Horses show a small increase upon last year. Malt liquor was exported only to the extent of 3,511 gallons, valued at 537*l.* I called attention to this article last year, and showed that in the colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia only the imports amounted in 1865 to 681,314*l.* Besides these colonies, there would be a large demand in Queensland and New Zealand. Of malt we exported absolutely none, and even the home market was chiefly supplied by the imported article. The quantity of sperm oil exported decreased from 381 tons in 1866 to 241¾ in 1867. Eggs as an article of export seem to be rising into some importance, the value last year being 1,590*l.* Timber shows an increase in value from 45,731*l.* in 1866 to 51,747*l.* in 1867; vegetables a decrease from 38,452*l.* to 22,808*l.* Wool also shows a decrease in value from 385,405*l.* to 378,977*l.*; the quantities being in 1866, 4,765,221 lbs.; in 1867, only 4,686,224 lbs.

The following shows the quantity, value, and average price of wool exported during the last 11 years.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Price per lb.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Price per lb.
	lbs.	£	*s.* *d.*		lbs.	£	*s.* *d.*
1857 - -	5,251,884	393,646	1 6	1863 - -	4,665,594	407,844	1 9
1858 - -	4,755,318	397,533	1 8	1864 - -	4,972,383	415,891	1 8
1859 - -	6,107,903	467,968	1 6¼	1865 - -	4,923,965	381,625	1 7
1860 - -	4,537,918	370,427	1 7½	1866 - -	4,765,221	385,405	1 7¼
1861 - -	4,103,369	326,413	1 7	1867 - -	4,686,224	378,977	1 7¼
1862 - -	5,241,650	366,350	1 4¾				
Average -	4,999,674	—	1 6½	Average -	4,802,677	—	1 7¾

It will be seen that, although the quantities fluctuate considerably, the average was higher in the former than in the latter portion of the period, while the average price has increased by one penny farthing per pound.

The following list shows that articles which might have been produced in the Colony have been imported to the value of 118,846*l.*; or, omitting those which probably under present circumstances can be procured more cheaply from abroad than they can be produced at home, to the value of, say 100,000*l.* In saying this I wish to guard myself against being supposed to favour the now exploded notion, that to import for home consumption is adverse to a country's interests; I only desire to show that there is abundant room for increasing the amount of our produce, even to supply our own requirements, independently of foreign markets. In any case in which goods can really be imported cheaper than they can be produced here, it would, of course, be for the general benefit that they should be so imported; but then, the labour thus set free should be only diverted into other more profitable channels, and not be allowed to remain unproductive, as is, I fear, too often the case in this Colony.

IMPORTS of Articles capable of being produced in the Colony, in the year 1867. TASMANIA.

Articles.	No. or Quantity.	Value.	Articles.	No. or Quantity.	Value.
		£			£
Almonds, pkgs.	18	75			
Ditto, lbs.	5,072	274	Malt, tanks	30	800
Bacon, ditto	666	30	Ditto, bushels	2,885	1,490
Beef and provisions, pkgs.	1,134	4,035	Malt liquors, cases	418	555
Boots and shoes, ditto	54	850	Ditto, gallons	21,996	2,305
Ditto, cubic feet	2,668	8,487	Ditto, doz. quarts	14,685 8/12	7,906
Butter, lbs.	97	5	Ditto, doz. pints	3,976 6/12	893
Carriages	367	1,072	Pearl barley, pkgs.	115	210
Cheese, pkgs.	6	12	Ditto, lbs.	42,898	597
Ditto, lbs.	16,115	757	Perry, gallons	160	30
Candles, pkgs.	415	620	Pickles, pints, dozens	1,000½	415
Ditto, lbs.	82,189	3,874	Ditto	884	
Chicory, pkgs.	76	506	Ditto, quarts, dozens	21	445
Ditto, lbs.	21,779		Ditto, pkgs.	55	
Coal, tons	7,233	8,532	Rope and twine, cwts.	1,538	5,272
Flour, ditto	5	63	Saddlery, cubic feet	1,381	3,003
Furniture, pkgs.	6	200	Soap, lbs.	42,417	889
Ditto, feet	4,452	3,484	Starch, pkgs.	180	210
Grain—			Ditto, lbs.	68,532	1,142
Barley, bushels	16,006	3,889	Tubs and buckets	4,386	359
Wheat, ditto	6,785	1,583	Vinegar, gals.	14,035	1,987
Oats, ditto	4	1	Vegetables, (cabbages) crates	195	295
Hams, pkgs.	11	175	Leather, feet	196	384
Ditto, lbs.	8,184	218	Lime, tons	31	29
Hides and skins, cwts.	3,254	6,250	Oatmeal, cwt.	2	2
Ditto, pkgs.	409		Oysters, pkgs.	43	44
Hops, ditto	65	439	Fish oil, pkgs.	10	104
Ditto, lbs.	71,016	4,955			
Live stock—					
Cattle	1,864	14,445	Total		£118,846
Sheep	38,437	24,649			

The question how production, trade, and commerce may most effectually be stimulated and fostered may be best answered by a reference to the history of free trade, or, as it has been, perhaps, better styled, "unrestricted competition," in England. It has invariably been found, that whenever burdens upon trade have been removed, an improvement in the revenue, and in the condition of the people, has been the result.

Intercolonial Free Trade Bill.

I cannot quit this part of the subject without some reference to the Intercolonial Free Trade Bill, which the Secretary of State declined to entertain. The failure of that bill to become law must greatly retard the development of our commerce with the sister colonies; but it has nevertheless been productive of a large amount of good. It has called the attention of the colonies interested to the advantages of a free interchange of products, and the generally favourable reception which it has met with affords ground for hope that, before long, the subject of free trade as a general principle will be better understood. For it must soon become evident that if a partial application of the principle, such as was provided for by that bill, be beneficial to those who might become parties to it, a more complete application of the same principle, namely, the free interchange of productions, would be attended with still more happy results. The attention of Australians having once been engaged by the subject, a way will probably yet be found to attain the end proposed.

Protection.

In the meantime, I think, I shall be doing some service to the public by supplementing the few remarks which I considered it not beyond my province to make last year on the subject of protection; and I am the more impelled to do this because the question, in one of its most plausible phases, has recently been brought before the public in more than one of the country districts.

And, first, of protection generally. It is a matter of notoriety, that a protective policy has for some time past prevailed in that colony to which we are most closely bound by the ties of commercial intercourse, namely, Victoria. The following extract from a public journal of that colony shows what the effect of thus setting at nought the well-established principles of political economy has been:—

"Our imports are less by 3,880,047*l.* than they were in 1866, the last year of free trade; while our exports during the same period have fallen off by upwards of a million. Under free trade our local manufactures were rapidly extending, and we were exporting more than seventy articles of our own

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America has often been appealed to as an instance of the success of a protective policy; the following extracts from the report of the Special Commissioner will show how it operates there :—

"The effect of the great increase and disturbance of prices thus noted has been as follows:—

"First, a decrease of production and consumption, and a partial suspension of national development —a result fully in accordance with a well-recognised law of political economy respecting prices.

"Another result arising from the great enhancement of prices, above referred to, of all labour and material is, that the products of American industry are exposed to a most unfair competition in their own and foreign markets with the similar offerings of other countries, produced from untaxed raw materials, with the further great advantage of cheaper capital and lower wages for labour. In fact, in nearly every department of American industry, the possession of the home market is seriously interfered with, while our ability to compete with foreign nations in foreign markets is restricted to the sale of a very few articles in which the American producer is largely favoured by natural or accidental advantages, as in the case of petroleum, cotton, sewing machines, and a few other things.

"The foreign commerce of the United States is being, as it were, swept from the ocean. * * *

"A reference to the official returns shows the amount of American registered tonnage engaged in the foreign trade in 1865–66 to have been 1,492,924 tons, as compared with 2,546,237 tons in 1859–60; which, allowing for the difference between the old and new measurements, indicates a decrease in five years of over 50 per cent. In 1853 the tonnage of the United States was about 15 per cent. in excess of that of Great Britain, while at the present time it is estimated at 83 per cent. less."

What he says in regard to the importation of wool is entitled to special consideration, as the late fall in the price of wool, in consequence of the American market being practically closed against the imports of foreign wool, by which the supply has overtaken the demand, has been seriously felt by the wool growers in the whole Australasian group :—

"Thirty years ago the manufacture of broad cloth constituted from 50 to 60 per cent. of the whole woollen business of the United States; now, it is not probably in excess of five per cent. Why? Because American legislation has not permitted the importation of broad cloth wools, and the American agriculturists have produced nothing to take their place, and never will until the successful establishment of the broad cloth industry in the United States has created a constant home demand for 'broad-cloth' wools."

The following extract, published in *The San Francisco Times*, from the annual circular of a trading firm, is still more definite :—

"The tariff on foreign wools passed by Congress is merely prohibitory. It was established as a protection to wool growers, but has been anything but a protection; and we believe that so long as such a tariff exists the prices will remain comparatively low.

"The wools formerly imported into the United States from Australia, the Cape, South America, &c. were shut off by the tariff, although they were essential to our home manufactures for mixing with other wool, so as to give variety of productions.

"The wools so expelled had to find a market in Europe, and their importation there reduced prices so much as to allow the European factories to produce goods at such a rate that they could be imported into the United States, even with the ruling high duty upon foreign imports, at a lower figure than they could be produced there.

"We mean to say that the price of wool would have been higher if no duties had been placed upon it. A protective tariff has always been a double-edged blade, that proves injurious to those who handle it without care."†

This is the invariable effect of so-called protection to the *produce* of labour. When the protection is applied, by means of trades unions or other similar combinations, to *labour itself*, the result is the same, as will be seen by the following extract from a late English paper :—

"The effect of trade combinations in driving trade from old localities has of late been generally alluded to. During the past week a cotton mill in Preston has received a large consignment of spinning machinery from Belgium, which, notwithstanding the cost of transit, has been supplied at 15 per

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* The "Australasian," February 29, 1868. It is, however, but fair to mention that some part of this declension must have been caused by the late political situation.

† Having shown the evils of the protective system, it may be well to advert to what the treaty of commerce between England and France, by removing restrictions to trade, has done for those countries in regard to one branch of trade which may be taken as a sample of the rest.

The imports of cotton yarn and cotton yarn waste from France into England were in 1860, 45,322 lbs.. in 1866, 2,518,635 (being almost entirely "waste" of cotton yarn) ; the imports of cotton manufactures were in 1860 valued at 371,774*l.*, in 1866 at 589,216*l.*

The exports of cotton yarn and cotton manufactures from England to France were in 1860 valued at 222,383*l.*, in 1866 at 1,498,894*l.*

The article from which I quote the above, adds : "Though the cotton exports to France cannot, compared with the trade we carry on with other countries, be considered large, they are now in value *seven* times what they were in 1859." (*Journal of the Statistical Society of London*, December 1867, p. 575.)

cent. less than the English prices. Once Preston was a noted place for the manufacture of machinery, and it supplied a great part of Lancashire; now its machinery is being actually imported from the Continent."

In Colonel Sykes' Analysis of a Report upon the State of the Empire of France (1867) it is remarked, "In machinery the phenomenon had appeared of the export of machinery "to Newcastle." *

The *Iron Trade Review* (Newcastle) says: "The causes of the stagnation [in the "trade] are not far to trace. They are, briefly, *over production* * * * * and the "injuries inflicted upon the trade owing to the actions of trades unions." †

History constantly repeats itself, and the intelligent and prudent will respect its teaching.

Secondly, as to the particular form of protection,—encouragement of the growth of agricultural produce.

Startling as the assertion may appear to some, it is nevertheless strictly true, that protection to meat and corn is protection *in its very worst form.* For these being necessaries of life, and therefore more largely consumed, or at any rate more indispensable than any other commodities, the amount of which the consumers are mulcted, or the inconvenience to which they are subjected, for the benefit of one or two classes, is greater, while that portion which is thereby added to the public revenue is less than in the case of any other protected article.

We may conveniently consider the subject under the following heads:—

1. The effect upon the consumer.
2. The effect upon production generally.
3. How far the duty would benefit the producer.

1. We are entitled to assume, as a postulate, that whenever the interests of a minority in a state are incompatible with those of the majority they must give way—the less to the greater. If it can be shown, therefore, that the general community (that is the consumers) would be injured by such a duty, it will be a sufficient argument for its rejection.

Mr. Mill says ‡:—"A tax on any one commodity, whether laid on its production, "its importation, its carriage from place to place, or its sale, * * * * will, as a "general rule, raise the value and price of the commodity by at least the amount of the "tax. There are few cases in which it does not raise them by more than that amount." Again, "One of the commonest cases of discriminating duties is that of a tax on the "importation of a commodity capable of being produced at home unaccompanied by an "equivalent tax on the home production. A commodity is never permanently imported "unless it can be obtained from abroad at a smaller cost of labour and capital on the "whole than is necessary for producing it. If, therefore, by a duty on the importation, "it is rendered cheaper to produce the article than to import it, an extra quantity "of labour and capital is expended without any extra result. The labour is useless, "and the capital is spent in paying people for laboriously doing nothing. All customs "duties which operate as an encouragement to the home production of the taxed "article, are thus an eminently wasteful mode of raising a revenue." Speaking of wheat (and the same applies to meat) he says: "If the wheat produced in a country "is twenty million of quarters, and the consumption twenty-one millions, a million "being annually imported, and if on this million a duty is laid which raises the price "ten shillings per quarter, the price which is raised is not that of the million only, but "of the whole twenty-one millions. Taking the most favourable, but extremely "improbable supposition, that the importation is not at all checked, nor the home "production enlarged, the State gains a revenue of only half a million, while the "consumers are taxed ten millions and a half, the ten millions being a contribution to "the home growers."

To apply these arguments to the case in point,—69,673 sheep and lambs, and 7,001 horned cattle (including calves) were slaughtered in Hobart Town and Launceston during 1867, of which 35,595 sheep and 1,935 cattle were imported. Now, if but a very small duty, say five shillings a head on cattle and a corresponding duty on sheep, were imposed, it would either not affect the importation of stock or the price of meat, in which case the graziers would get no benefit; or if the importation were checked, or the butchers raised the price to the consumer by a farthing a pound (which would be much more than the duty), the graziers would probably either get no increase of price,

* Journal of the Statistical Society of London, March 1868, p. 56.
† Ibid, p. 87.
‡ Political Economy, vol. II., chap. iv.

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or at best only a nominal one, the only class who would substantially profit by the duty being the butchers. But, again, suppose a higher duty were imposed, say one pound per head on cattle, and two shillings and sixpence on sheep. Granting that the effect of the duty were to raise the price of meat by no more than the amount of the duty (which is almost certainly below what it actually would be), the people of Hobart Town and Launceston would have to pay, say, 15,700*l.* per annum more than before, of which only about 6,500*l.** would go into the public treasury, the remainder being divided as a bonus between the butchers and graziers, the former coming in for the lion's share. But if the price in the two principal towns were thus enhanced, a corresponding rise would naturally take place throughout the Colony, and thus the burden which the community would have to bear to swell the profits of the favoured few would be about three times the difference between 15,700*l.* and 6,500*l.*, or 27,600*l.* per annum, and this besides the 6,500*l.* which it would have to pay to the State as the amount of duty; so that the real amount of the tax would be, not 6,500*l.*, but 34,100*l.* per annum.†

The plain truth of the matter is, that unless the duty raise the price of meat sufficiently to bear heavily upon the consumer, it affords no benefit to the grower; so that the expected profits of the latter are in exact proportion to the pressure on the former.

If the tax on stock or meat were imposed at all, a corresponding excise duty should be placed on stock of colonial growth, so that the State might have the benefit of the whole tax, instead of only a minute portion of it.

Live stock may be imported into the Colony in one of these two ways: (1.) By the Australian grazier himself; (2.) By parties in this Colony.

(1.) The argument which has been put forth that it is not the consumer but the Australian producer who pays the tax clearly can apply only to the first case. The Australian importer would certainly pay the duty in the first instance, but would be reimbursed the amount of duty by the increase of price which he would obtain from the Tasmanian consumer.

(2.) But as all, or nearly all the importations of stock come under the second and not the first case, the argument (even were it based upon some solid foundation, which, I believe, is not the fact‡) for the reason above stated falls to the ground. But further, the importers of this class are as much consumers as any other description of Tasmanian colonists; so that the proposition that the tax would fall upon the consumer is thus further proved.

"* * * Attempts have sometimes been made to defend or apologise for restrictions on importations by endeavouring to show that they oblige foreigners to contribute to the revenue of the nation which has sagacity to profit by them! * * * The truth, however, is that the project is wholly visionary, and that duties on imports are always paid by the importers, and never by the exporters. The price of every freely produced commodity is determined here and everywhere else by the competition of the producers. Taking all things into account, the articles disposed of to foreigners and to native buyers fetch about the same prices. The circumstance of the commodities which we send abroad being subject in France, the United States, and elsewhere to certain duties, lessens, of course, the demand for them in those countries; but, otherwise, it is of not the slightest consequence to the producers here. They sell their goods indifferently to the foreign merchant and to their nearest neighbour, for a price sufficient to defray the cost of their production, including profits; and the duties imposed on them abroad, whether they be high or low, make a further addition to their cost, which must obviously be paid by the foreign consumers. It is singular how a different opinion should ever have been entertained, it is obviously without so much as the shadow of a foundation."§

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* There is some difference between the numbers of imported stock returned by the Customs department and those taken at the slaughter-houses. The latter have been used in this argument.

† The imported meat being consumed at the two ports only, country consumers would contribute nothing to the revenue.

‡ To prove this, suppose that cattle are selling at 6*l.* per head in Melbourne or Sydney, and at 10*l.* here; the importer then gets a gross profit of 4*l.* per head. When the duty is imposed, he may at first only get 3*l.*, and the reduction of profit may for a time induce him to suspend his shipments; but when the price of meat here rises (as it certainly would) by the amount of the duty, or more, it is evident that the same margin of profit will be left as at first, if not even a greater. Then (unless the price should have been brought down by competition among the home producers) the importation would, by the ordinary laws of supply and demand, be renewed; the consumer, it will be observed, will still pay the tax.

§ M'Culloch's Principles of Political Economy, p. 166.

2. "Every tax," says the author whom I have before quoted, "on a commodity tends to raise its price, and consequently to lessen the demand for it in the market in which it [is] sold." If therefore the price of meat were so affected by the duty as to be sensibly raised, the consumption would decrease, the difference in price being compensated by the consumer using less,—and thus production, instead of being encouraged, would be checked. But, after a time, a reaction might possibly take place. The increased price would on this supposition stimulate production, and increase competition, by which the price would be again brought down to its former standard, or even lower; and whenever this fall should have taken place, the grower would be no better off than before, while the imposition of the duty would induce the Colonies affected to make reprisals, and so still further impede the development of our trade.

Moreover, a rise in the price of meat, being one of the necessaries of life, would diminish the demand for labour and the value of wages, and discourage immigration, if it did not even drive residents out of the Colony, and react injuriously upon every department of industry, so that the ramifications of the evil would permeate the whole social system to such an extent that it is extremely difficult to say where it would end. It may be added that whatever tends to impede the development of trade, commerce, and production in other countries, with which we hold more or less closely commercial relations, narrows their power of consumption, and so contracts the market for our own produce. The true view is that which regards all countries as bound together by the tie of a common interest; one cannot suffer without, to some extent, and in some way, drawing others in; and so, on the other hand, when one flourishes, the others will be found in some respect or other to be sharers in its prosperity.

3. It has already been said that the benefit to the grower would be small compared with the profits of the butcher; besides which, consumers would probably resort to other kinds of food, and thus, what the grower might possibly (for a time) gain by increase of price, he would lose by the decrease in demand.

It is absolutely certain that the benefit which the grower would derive from a protective duty would be but temporary, for such a duty *must*, by at first unnaturally raising the price, produce one of two consequences,—it must either, by encouraging competition by means of an artificial scarcity, bring down prices to such an extent as to leave no profit to the grazier, or else, if the home supply should not be so much increased as to affect the price, importation from abroad would recommence. In either case an injury would have been done to the consumer, and the producer would be no better off than before.

In regard to the importation of meat, as well as to all other articles of foreign produce, there are already protective charges in the shape of freight and other expenses.

It is strange that it should never have occurred to the advocates of protection to meat of home growth, that it is just because the price is higher in this than in the sister Colonies, that it is found profitable to import it from thence; and that the true way to discourage importation is rather to reduce the price than to augment it.

There are only two methods by which importation can, without violating the plain principles of political economy, be prevented. 1. By bringing the consumer and producer into immediate relation, the latter coming into the market as a retail dealer, and thus breaking down a monopoly which intercepts his profits. 2. By affording such facilities, in the way of transport, to the home grower, as may enable him successfully to compete with the importer.

The true policy of the graziers is, not to agitate for protection with the view of benefiting a class at the expense of the whole Colony, but to urge on the adoption of the principles partially enunciated in the measure which has recently been disallowed —the Intercolonial Free Trade Bill. The Australian Colonies generally having shown a disposition in favour of the principle of that Bill, it only requires that the present disabilities be removed in order to its adoption; while by putting a protective duty on the produce of those Colonies, they would probably refuse to enter into any agreement with us for the purpose. In fact, the time for reprisals or aggressive measures has gone by; what might have had some show of reason some time since is now a mere anachronism—unjustifiable, impolitic, and absurd.

If the matter be left to the operation of natural laws, it seems likely that before long the manufacture of preserved meat in the Australian Colonies will be so extensively undertaken as to absorb a considerable part of the surplus stock of meat in those Colonies. As a necessary consequence of this and other causes, the price of live stock must rise, and the increased price, together with the new markets opened to the trade in other parts of the world, will greatly lessen the inducements to send meat hither.

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Every rise in the price of meat in the foreign, or fall in the home market, by so far equalising the values, tends to discourage importation; and when the natural course of events has carried this equalising process to a certain point, the import trade in cattle will no longer yield a profit, and the supply from abroad will cease of itself.

It has often been urged that free trade, though it may be proper in an old country, with a large manufacturing interest like England, is not suitable to the circumstances of a young and struggling community like this, whose wealth lies chiefly in its pastoral and agricultural products. It might be sufficient to point in answer to the example of the United States, but the arguments which I have already adduced will (if they have been clearly stated), show that free trade is, if anything, more necessary in a country like this than in England, which might afford the luxury of protection without feeling its paralysing influence so immediately as in a small and unsettled community such as this is. The *general* laws of trade are the same in all countries and under all conditions, and though their operation is to some extent modified by special circumstances, there is nothing in the case of this Colony to make free trade less applicable than in that of any other country.

Shipping.

To revert to the consideration of the returns before us, the shipping inwards and outwards in 1867 were as follows:—

	British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
Inwards -	595	96,186	3	1,204	598	97,390
Outwards -	629	102,141	2	613	631	102,754

The total number of vessels inwards shows a decrease of 7 per cent., and the tonnage a decrease of $9\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., as compared with the numbers in 1866. The number entered outwards was less by one than in 1866, and the tonnage was also less by 3·311.

It is worthy of remark that the tonnage of vessels cleared at the Port of Launceston and sub-ports was greater than that cleared at the port of Hobart Town, in the proportion of 52 to 51 nearly. The tonnage of vessels entered was greater at Hobart Town than at Launceston, but only in the proportion of 49 to 48. Ten years ago (in 1858) the proportion of vessels entered at the ports of Hobart Town and Launceston was as 91 to 57 nearly.

The number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards during 1866–7 at the different ports and sub-ports is shown in the following table:

	1866.		1867.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Hobart Town - - -	227	54,568	222	49,085
Launceston - - -	158	36,368	135	29,945
Ditto, Sub-ports; viz.—				
Circular Head - -	98	7,516	83	7,850
Port Frederick - -	73	4,813	20	1,629
Leith - - -	40	2,094	77	5,228
Wynyard - - -	44	2,363	61	3,653
Emu Bay - - -	3	181	—	—
	416	53,335	376	48,305

Steamers.

The number of steamers registered during the year 1867 was the same as in the preceding year.

Shipping registered.

The number of shipping (including steamers) was also the same as regards the total; but five vessels seem to have been transferred from Launceston to Hobart Town.

In the Whale Fisheries, one additional vessel was engaged in 1867, increasing the tonnage by 171, and the number of men employed by 16. This increase in the means of capture was not, however, rewarded by an increase in the profits, since the quantity of oil produced was less by about 150 tuns, the decrease in the value being represented as 15,200*l.* Whale fisheries.

The quantity of coal raised in 1867 is stated to have been 8,341 tons, against 14,309 in 1866. The decrease occurred at New Town and at Seymour. The Seymour Coal Company Limited was wound up in December last, in consequence of its inability to obtain additional capital (the original capital having been too small to admit of the Company being successfully worked); and the mines and plant have since passed into other hands. Coal.

The return of the prices of provisions, &c. at Hobart Town shows that ale, bread, flour, potatoes, and rice were dearer in 1867 than in 1866, while candles, oil, (Colza), starch, beef, and mutton were cheaper. Prices of provisions.

A return of the contract prices of the principal articles of consumption supplied to the government in 1867 has been added, and will prove useful for comparison in future years.

The rate of wages is an important element in estimating the material and social condition of any country. The returns hitherto rendered are so meagre as to afford but a very scanty amount of information in this respect. One of the most important of the producing classes, the agricultural labourers, was altogether omitted; and so was another class, that of domestic servants. Rates of wages.

It would serve no adequate purpose to enter into an analysis of the return of wages now presented; but, in observing the difference in the rates in various parts of the Colony, one cannot help thinking how much would be saved in some districts to the employer, and gained in others by the employed, by increased facilities of communication, which would have a tendency to equalize the rates throughout the whole country, and so remove those great inequalities which now militate against the interests of both the classes referred to. I shall have occasion again to refer to this subject when speaking of the prices of agricultural produce.

A comparison of the return of trades and manufactories affords some instructive results. Turning our attention first to those branches of industry which are subservient to the purposes of agriculture, or in any way minister to it, we find an increase of 4 in the makers of agricultural implements; a decrease of 1 in the number of bone mills; of 2 in the number of breweries; an increase of 1 in the number of cider makers, and 11 in the fellmongers; a decrease of 2 in the maltsters; of 5 in the flour mills worked by wind, of 1 in those worked by steam, and of 2 in those worked by water power; a decrease of 11 in the number of tanners; an increase of 8 in the wheelwrights. As regards some other industries, we find an increase of 7 cabinet makers and joiners; of 1 coach builder; 6 coopers; and of 5 engineers; and a decrease of 5 sawmills and 3 wool-staplers. The latter is significant, as affording corroborative evidence of the decline of the growth of wool, as before shown from the Customs Returns. It will be observed that there is a decrease of 11 in the number of publicans. Trades and manufactories.

III.—FINANCE.

The receipts of the general revenue (excluding the balance from 1866, but including "Adjusting Entries," 13,128*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*) were 272,952*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, being 27,531*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* more than in 1866. The greater part of this increase is to be found under the following heads:—Publicans' Licences, 6,470*l.*; Immigration Commissioners, 4,000*l.*; Debentures, 9,200*l.*; Arrears of former years, the accounts of which had been closed, 5,261*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, being chiefly repayments from the British Government. Of the above receipts, 127,223*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* (including Bond rents, &c. at Launceston) were derived from Customs' Duties, being less than in 1866 by 2,086*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; 56,087*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* from sources classed as "Inland Revenue," being more than in 1866 by 9,034*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, of which excess 6,470*l.*, as above stated, were contributed by the publicans. General revenue.

The receipts from Customs' Duties were nearly the same as in 1864, the inland revenue nearly the same as in 1862.

The expenditure charged to the general revenue was 255,552*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, being 13,190*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* more than in 1866.

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The amounts under their several classes for the two years, 1866 and 1867, stood thus:—

	Year 1866.			Year 1867.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ordinary expenditure for the year - -	182,363	11	2	163,695	0	3
Special disbursements - - -	31,592	12	7	50,303	19	9
	213,956	3	9	213,999	0	0
Arrears of former years - -	28,405	3	9	41,553	0	8
	242,361	7	6	255,552	0	8

The increase under the head of "Special Disbursements" was caused by the redemption of debentures to the extent of 15,000*l.*, and by a payment of 3,500*l.* to the Immigration Commissioners.

In the arrears of former years there was also a large excess, chiefly for postal services, charitable allowances, and maintenance of convicts.

The receipts of the land fund were 124,945*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase upon those of 1866 of 33,327*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* They may be arranged for comparison as follows:—

	Year 1866.			Year 1867.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale of Crown Lands - -	53,067	0	11	47,053	14	5
Rent of ditto - - -	9,223	4	8	8,200	10	8
Fees - - - -	2,113	1	1	2,380	2	5
Debentures sold - - -	23,110	0	0	64,568	0	0
Other Miscellaneous Receipts -	829	5	0	2,742	14	9
	88,342	11	8	124,945	2	3

Land fund.

The revenue from Crown lands was considerably less than in 1866; from fees somewhat greater. The debentures sold show a large increase, of which 39,118*l.* were for public works, and 1,216*l.* were monies received from the Immigration Commissioners.

The expenditure from the land fund in 1867 was 106,471*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, which is very nearly the same as in 1866. For the two years, it may be thus compared:—

	Year 1866.			Year 1867.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ordinary Services - -	42,139	7	4	42,861	19	7
Debentures redeemed - -	13,900	0	0	17,380	0	0
New Schools, Immigration, &c. -	1,108	1	9	6,938	14	8*
Public Works—Roads, Bridges, &c.	46,474	0	2	35,229	15	4
Arrears of former years - -	3,119	9	7	4,060	17	11
	106,740	18	10	106,471	17	6

The expenditure by the commissariat on account of imperial services was 67,235*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, against 56,460*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* in 1866. The increase was probably due to the presence of the additional military force.

The bank returns show a total of assets at the end of the year of 1,244,688*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and of liabilities of 669,644*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

* Including 3,258*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* for defences of the colony.

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Banks.

The principal features of these returns for the two years 1866–7, may be thus summarised and compared. Fractions are omitted, for the sake of greater clearness: —

	Assets.				Liabilities.			
	Specie.		Debts due to Banks, including Notes, Bills of Exchange, Stock, and Funded Debts, &c.		Notes in Circulation.		Deposits.	
	1866.	1867.	1866	1867.	1866.	1867.	1866.	1867.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
First Quarter - -	168,044	152,291	1,058,351	1,028,470	88,525	78,472	678,645	651,275
Second Quarter -	181,880	154,629	1,012,630	1,041,078	88,429	81,875	682,597	654,944
Third Quarter - -	170,605	157,419	1,031,593	1,036,904	80,339	72,755	660,960	615,450
Fourth Quarter -	165,413	143,471	1,053,848	1,051,633	76,006	68,366	627,479	590,556
Average for the Year	171,485	151,952	1,039,105	1,039,521	83,325	75,367	662,420	628,056

With the exception of debts due to banks, &c., all the results show a large decrease in 1867. In the case of specie, the decrease amounted to 11·39 per cent., in notes to 9·55 per cent., and in deposits to 5·19 per cent. The indications afforded by these returns confirm the conclusion to be drawn from the accounts of the customs department, namely, that production and commerce have been and still are rapidly diminishing year by year.

Savings' banks.

The next return relating to savings'-banks shows, on the 31st August, a sum of 193,301*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* to the credit of depositors, being less by 1,278*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* than in the corresponding half of the preceding year. The total amount received from depositors during the year was 101,646*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, being at the rate of 1*l.* 0*s.* 7¾*d.* per head for the whole population; the total amount repaid to them, 102,924*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; that is, the sum of 1,278*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* before mentioned was taken from the savings of 1866 to make up the deficiencies of 1867.

Post office money orders.

In post office money orders there was an increase in the number issued of 463, about 17 per cent., and in the amount, of 1,454*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*; in money orders paid an increase of 382 in the number, and of 1,363*l.* 6*s.* in the amount. Two additional stations for the issue and payment of post office money orders were established in country districts during the year.

Gold mining.

The next return shows, as far as it can be ascertained, the quantity of gold obtained in the district of Fingal during the year. The yield of the alluvial mines can only be known in so far as it has passed through the hands of the storekeepers or other local purchasers of gold. The quantity thus purchased is stated to have been, 144 ozs. 6 dwts. 2 grs. The quartz companies crushed 7,677 tons of stone during the year, producing 1,218 ozs. 19 dwts. of retorted gold, which would give an average result of 3 dwts. 4 grs. to the ton of quartz. There was an increase in the quantity of stone crushed in 1867 of 4,805 tons, and in the produce, of 871 ozs. 3 dwts.

Public debt.

It appears from the statements relating to the public debt of the Colony, that on the 31st December 1867 the amount of the various loans authorized, including debentures not then issued, was 1,073,900*l.* Deducting the 55,000*l.* then remaining unissued, the actual debt of the government of this Colony was 1,018,900*l.* or 10*l.* 6*s.* 11¾*d.* per head for the whole population. In Victoria, at the end of 1866, the indebtedness per head was 13*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.*; in New South Wales, 16*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*; in South Australia, 1*l.* 2*s.* 5¼*d.*; and in Queensland, 23*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* The interest of the debt in Queensland is stated by the registrar general to have been at the rate of 1*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* per head; in Tasmania it was at the rate of 0*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* per head.

It may be useful to state for the information of persons out of the Colony, who are interested in its financial condition, that of the total debt of 1,018,900*l.*, a sum of 300,000*l.*, although contracted by the government and dealt with in the same manner as all other public loans, was in reality raised on behalf of a private company for the construction of a line of railway between Launceston and Deloraine, the government being, by Act 30 Vict., No. 28, protected against loss in respect to the payment of principal or interest, by any sums of money which may be paid by the colonial treasurer for those purposes being made a primary charge on the railway and works, which cannot be taken in execution by any private creditor, so long as the State holds such lien upon the property of the company. The Governor-in-Council is also empowered

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by a former Act to levy a rate on the assessed value of property within the railway district, in order to reimburse the colonial treasurer any amounts so paid by him. The sum for which the State is *ultimately* liable is therefore no more than 718,900*l.*, or 7*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* per head.

In proportion to the extent of their respective territories, the debt of the different colonies stands thus:—Tasmania, 0*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.* per acre; Victoria, 0*l.* 3*s.* 2¼*d.*; New South Wales, 0*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.*; South Australia, 0*l.* 0*s.* 0¾*d.*; and Queensland 0*l.* 0*s* 1¼ *d.**

From this it will be seen that the lands of Tasmania are very much less heavily mortgaged to the public creditor than those of Victoria. But although this is interesting as a statistical fact, it is not of much weight in a financial point of view; for the security of the public creditor evidently depends, not upon the extent to which the territory of a state is or is not mortgaged, but upon the power of the population to pay the interest upon the debt. The security is therefore to be measured by the population, the production, and the amount of accumulated wealth—that is, of taxable property.

IV.—ESTABLISHMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS MAINTAINED OR ASSISTED BY GOVERNMENT.

Post office.

The number of post offices in 1867 was increased by 3, the number of persons employed was also increased by 3, the mileage of post roads by 27.

In the number of letters received, there was a decrease of 10,295; of letters despatched, a decrease of 2,164. The numbers of newspapers received and despatched were less than those of the previous year by 22,010 and 67,876 respectively. The number received was less than in any year from 1857 inclusive, with the exception of the year 1861, when it fell to 298,812. Town and district letters show a decrease of 4,272.

The revenue from the post office shows an improvement to the extent of 274*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; the expenditure a decrease of 457*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

Electric telegraph.

The return relating to the electric telegraph shows a diminution in the number of paid messages of 404, and in the number of free messages of 2,090. In the amount received for paid messages there was a decrease of 35*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; and in the total expenditure a decrease of 604*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

The preliminary arrangements for restoring telegraphic communication between Tasmania and Victoria have now been satisfactorily completed, and in the course of this year the line may be expected again to be at work. The re-opening of this line will confer a great benefit on the public generally, and may be expected to have a very favourable influence on trade.

Penal and charitable institutions.

The table given below shows approximately the expense of the various penal and charitable institutions, as apportioned to the respective governments, in the years 1866 and 1867:—

PENAL.	Chargeable to: Imperial Government. 1866. £ s. d.	Imperial Government. 1867. £ s. d.	Colonial Government. 1866. £ s. d.	Colonial Government. 1867. £ s. d.
Port Arthur†	13,004 13 0	12,156 1 11	12,873 11 11	13,568 15 11
Gaol for Males, Hobart Town	216 1 9	506 1 7	4,797 11 4	3,647 19 10
Ditto Females, ditto	387 8 4	24 10 7½	2,755 7 6½	1,473 10 5½
Gaol, &c., Launceston	33 15 7½	21 1 10	3,935 11 5½	3,677 1 7
	13,641 18 8½	12,707 15 11½	24,362 2 3	22,366 17 9½
CHARITABLE.				
Cascade Invalid Depôt	—	336 19 7¼	—	2,339 9 6½
General Hospital, Hobart Town	472 3 2½	412 2 10	6,703 17 8¼	4,717 15 4
Ditto, Launceston	745 17 4¾	46 3 4	2,593 11 11¼	2,960 10 6
Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk	1,607 9 0	1,668 6 8	5,695 18 10	4,560 2 0
Hospital, Campbell Town	—	—	272 10 0	260 12 0
Queen's Asylum	3,298 12 0½	2,046 9 9	8,255 7 10½	5,689 17 5
Brickfields Pauper Establishment	—	—	3,985 10 2	3,264 4 10¾
Industrial School for Females	—	—	100 0 0	100 0 0
Benevolent Societies	—	—	1,354 7 4	1,389 11 0
Ragged Schools	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0
	6,124 1 7¾	4,510 2 2¼	29,161 3 10	25,482 2 8¼
Total of Penal and Charitable Institutions	19,766 0 4¼	17,217 18 1¾	53,523 6 1	47,849 0 5¾

* These, with the exception of Tasmania, are for 1866.

† For 1865 and 1865 at Port Arthur there were in 1867, 51 paupers, costing about 1,700*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, whose maintenance should strictly be deducted from the "Penal" and added to the "Charitable" Institutions.

It is gratifying to find that there was a reduction in the cost of these establishments to the extent of nearly 6,000*l.* As between the two governments, the ratio of decrease to the colonial was 10·6 per cent., to the Imperial, 12·89 per cent.

In the cost per head of the prisoners and paupers maintained in the above establishments there is, with one or two exceptions, a considerable decrease caused to some extent by the decline in the price of provisions. At the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk the rate per head appears as if it were slightly in excess of that for 1866, but the true explanation seems to be that an error occurred in the calculation for that year, which was discovered in examining the return for 1867, and there corrected. At the Queen's Asylum, on the other hand, there would appear to be a decrease per head of nearly 6*l.*, of which also a part is attributable to an error in the return for 1866, which was not discovered in spite of the most careful scrutiny. In that year all receipts (except *bonâ fide* money transactions for which credit was taken at the Treasury) were excluded; but it was not discovered until the next year that it had been the practice to charge against the institution the value of farm produce grown on the land attached to it, and consumed by the inmates. The return of expenditure for 1867 includes, as I understand, nothing but actual money expenditure on one side or the other, with the exception of a credit for milk supplied to other government establishments, which is now allowed in the books of the treasury. The actual reduction per head, after taking into account these corrections, is stated by the principal to be 2*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*

Aborigines.

The return of the aborigines in the establishment at Oyster Cove on the 31st December last shows that one man and two women were the sole remains of the original possessors of this Island. Three females had died during the year. In a few years more these few representatives of the race will have passed away,—leaving scarcely a single monument, save some few articles preserved in museums, and a few paintings, to tell that they had ever been.

Municipalities.

In regard to municipalities there is only one observation which need be made. On comparing the annual value of rateable property in 1866 and 1867, it will be found that there was a decrease of 6,073*l.*, while the total revenue and expenditure were somewhat greater.

Road trusts.

The road trusts offer no special ground for remark in regard to the particulars recorded in the return. It is, however, worthy of mention that the Act of last session by requiring the accounts of the road trusts to be submitted to a proper audit, as in the case of municipalities, will greatly facilitate the preparation of future statistical returns. Extreme difficulty has hitherto been felt in this respect. In some cases the accounts have been grossly incorrect, and a large amount of reference has been necessary,—sometimes, after all, unsuccessful; and in several instances I have been informed that the existing executive officer of the trust could make nothing of the accounts, his predecessor having died or refused to afford any information. The provision contained in that Act, that all accounts shall be made up to the 31st December, is also a great improvement and will materially facilitate the performance of the statistician's duties.

Boards of works.

The return relating to boards of works is presented in a different form from that of last year. It has been found impossible, without a change of system, to obtain from the boards themselves correct particulars of their expenditure; and the information in the present case has therefore been obtained from the treasury.

V.—Crown Lands, Agriculture, and Live Stock.

Crown lands.

Excluding the Islands there were in 1867, 738,582 acres of land leased from the Crown, producing a rental of 7,063*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, which is the rate of 0*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.* per 100 acres. It will be seen by the surveyor-general's memo. at the foot of the return which stands at the head of this section, that the extent of land under lease has hitherto been very much overstated, in consequence, as he concludes, of the leases as they were thrown up or fell in not having been always written off. Including the Islands, the total rental in 1867 is stated to have been 8,206*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, being in round numbers 1,096*l.* less than in the previous year.

The return of country lands (that is, not including town and suburban lots) sold during the year shows a total of 293 lots, representing 29,584*a.* 0*r.* 18*p.*, against 397 lots, with an acreage of 61,368*a.* 0*r.* 3*p.* in 1866. It is a noticeable fact that while, in regard to the blocks of over 50 acres, both the number and extent of land show a large decrease, in regard to those of and under 50 acres, although there is a slight decrease in the acreage, there is an increase of 11 in the number, denoting, it is to be presumed, that the smaller class of landholders is on the increase.

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In the town and suburban lots sold there was a decrease in the number of 70, in the acreage of 335*a*. 0*r*. 4*p*., and in the amount represented by the sales, of 1,234*l*. 16*s*. 0*d*.

The average price per acre in 1867 was,—for country lots, 0*l*. 15*s*. 10¼*d*.; for town and suburban lots, 4*l*. 0*s*. 10¼*d*. In 1866 the price per acre was,—for the former, 0*l*. 11*s*. 7½*d*.; and for the latter, 3*l*. 18*s*. 2*d*. Thus, the value of the Crown lands seems to have increased; and it is gratifying, in the face of so many facts pointing to the conclusion that we have hitherto been rather retrograding than advancing, to be able to record the circumstance.

The total area of the Colony is calculated to contain 16,778,000 acres, of which, at the end of the year 1867, 3,739,766*a*. 0*r*. 24*p*. had been alienated; leaving about 13,000,000 still belonging to the State.

Agriculture.

The return of land in cultivation during the year ended March 31, 1868, shows a result of 153,588 acres in crop; 103,487 occupied by gardens, and including all cultivated lands not arranged under specific classes; 18,805 under fallow; and 5,503 acres of new land broken up during the year, making a total of 281,383 acres. The quantity of land included under the head of "fallow," is almost certainly larger than it should be. Some of the collectors of the agricultural statistics seem not to have understood the term, and accordingly to have comprehended under that title land which having been cropped, has either been laid down in artificial grasses, or else allowed to relapse into a state of natural pasturage. It would not be safe therefore to draw any conclusions at present as to the proportion of land which is strictly treated as fallow,—that is, turned up roughly, and allowed to lie exposed, without a crop, to the action of the elements. Next year we may hope to gain more perfect information in this particular. Meantime, it may be well to draw the attention of our farmers to the fact (which is not only deduced from the investigations of scientific chemists, but also abundantly attested by practical experience) that where a sufficient supply of manure of a proper description cannot be provided, or where root or similar crops are not grown in rotation, it is *absolutely necessary* that the soil should be thus exposed in order to recover its exhausted energies, and thus to render it capable of bearing a fresh crop. Bare fallows, however, are a wasteful mode of attaining this object, and should never be resorted to where better means of effecting the same end can be found.

The total acreage (including new land broken up) in cultivation in 1866 was 286,930, or 5,547 acres more than in 1867–8; the acreage in farm crops being 167,866 or 14,278 acres more than in 1867–8. The decrease in the land in farm crops in the latter year was therefore at the rate of 8½ per cent.

The acreage under each description of crop in the two years may be thus compared:

	Acreage.			Acreage.	
	1866.	1867–8.		1866.	1867–8.
Wheat	71,348	64,010	Turnips	1,096	765
Barley	4,596	6,860	Carrots	176	199
Oats	34,358	27,574	Mangel Wurzel	1,349	1,089
Peas	3,655	4,558	Onions	253	221
Beans	508	509	English Grasses	5,393	3,261
Tares	535	286	Hay	33,762	33,064
Potatoes	10,520	10,768	Tobacco	216	151

All these crops exhibit a decrease—most of them a large one—except barley, pease, potatoes, (the increase on which is very trifling), and carrots. I am sorry to observe a decrease of about 600 acres of root crops. Until the value of these in fertilizing the soil is better understood, and more practically acknowledged, it is to be feared that no great improvement in the system of agriculture can be expected. The culture of the sugar beet has lately received some attention here; and it is understood that a wealthy and enterprising colonist is about to undertake the growth of the root, and the manufacture of this description of sugar. If the attempt should be brought to a successful issue, the originator will have conferred a signal benefit on the agricultural interest, and have done much towards the establishment of a more rational and economical system of cultivation.

In hops, as is well known here, there has been a very large increase, which will in the present year be still further augmented. The increase last year in the breadth of land was 93 acres, and in the produce, 86,900 lbs. This branch of industry, instead

of being confined, as heretofore, to New Norfolk, is likely to be extended to many other parts of the island.

The average yield of the different crops in 1867–8 (excluding tobacco, which is only grown, as far as I am aware, for sheep-wash), is shown below.

Wheat, bushels	13·98	per acre.
Barley, „	24·40	„
Oats, „	22·94	„
Pease „	18·64	„
Beans, „	20·41	„
Tares, „	19·49	„
Potatoes, tons	3·49	„
Turnips, „	6·98	„
Carrots, „	8·79	„
Mangel wurzel, tons	10·06	„
Onions, tons	5·05	„
English grass, bushels	18·95	„
Hay, tons	1·03	„

These results are important, because from them it may easily be calculated what crops are the most profitable to the farmer. For instance, it will be seen that nearly one-fifth of the whole area under crop was in hay. The mean produce of hay was scarcely more than one ton to the acre, and in many districts not so much. At 3*l.* per ton, which is about the mean price, the farmer's gross return would only be 3*l.* per acre. When the expense of seed, ploughing, mowing, carriage, and other operations is deducted, it will be found that there is scarcely anything left for profit. Indeed, taking into consideration the exhaustion of the soil, it is questionable whether there would not be an actual loss. It is singular how pertinaciously our farmers adhere to this unprofitable custom of hay growing, when the land might be put to so much better uses.

In consequence of the change which has been made in the time of the year at which to take the returns, they are now, for the first time, presented in such a state as to be safely used for statistical purposes. It is impossible, within the limits of this report, to enter into a minute analysis of the crop return; and I must therefore confine myself to the one product—wheat. The average yield, as has been already stated, was 13·98 bushels per acre; the maximum, at Glenorchy, being 26·78 bushels, and the minimum, at New Norfolk, being but 4·92 bushels. In regard to the last, the superintendent of police reports, that "the wheat crops were fearfully bad." At Deloraine, the collector reports that the low yield of wheat "is to be attributed to the prevalence of rust, from which "every farmer suffered more or less;" and he adds, "had the returns been made out at "the approach of harvest, they would have been utterly valueless, as many expected "forty or more bushels per acre where they did not get ten."

A comparative table of the acreage in the different kinds of crop from 1857 was given in my last report; it may be interesting now to give the total produce and average per acre of the three principal cereal products for the same period. It should, however, be borne in mind that until the last year, for the reason above referred to, the figures must not be two confidently relied on.

Year.	Produce.			Average Produce per Acre.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1857	1,213,807	198,085	676,877	19·11	16·88	21·24
1858	930,297	202,631	925,110	18·43	18·67	19·38
1859	1,061,517	151,990	918,881	17·60	20·09	25·38
1860	1,415,896	126,605	926,418	21·32	20·29	30·57
1861	1,380,913	169,381	751,475	23·42	23·27	25·89
1862	1,008,569	199,310	737,633	16·58	21·05	23·68
1863	953,250	201,852	1,024,134	17·64	20·31	25·46
1864	839,501	123,320	995,352	13·95	19·51	24·33
1865	1,273,766	101,504	688,740	17·38	22·42	24·13
1866	1,528,706	120,780	941,993	21·43	26·28	27·40
1867–8	894,814	167,404	632,461	13·98	24·40	22·94

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I take the following comparative table (in an abridged form), showing the average yield in four of these Colonies of the principal agricultural productions, from Mr. Archer's report prefixed to the agricultural statistics of Victoria for the year 1866-7 :—

	Wheat.	Oats.	Other Cereals.	Potatoes.	Hay.
Victoria - -	22·25	30·01	24·03	2·74	1·74
South Australia -	14·34	22·29	20·13	2·39	1·32
New South Wales -	12·72	20·39	31·31	2·33	1·58
Tasmania - -	21·43	27·42	22·08	3·87	1·65
Mean -	16·39	28·57	28·70	2·79	1·54

Mr. Archer remarks, "It will be noticed that the acreable yield of wheat, oats, and "hay is highest in Victoria; that New South Wales gives the highest acreable yield "of 'other cereals' (chiefly maize); that the average yield of potatoes and tobacco is "highest in Tasmania.

The value of the imports and exports of breadstuffs, oats, and barley from 1857 was given in my last report. A table is now subjoined showing the quantities, taken from the customs returns.

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	Wheat.	Flour.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Flour.	Barley.	Oats.
	Bushels.	Tons.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1857	8,395	109	362	15,217	155,415	6,810	6,272	345,061
1858 -	10,485	183	2,843	8,104	226,280	4,780	2,746	305,321
1859 -	12,073	106	9,327	5,806	196,403	4,267	1,175	427,797
1860 -	2,793	442	10	25	156,043	2,164	4,315	546,590
1861 -	3,635	99	2,524	—	260,488	2,841	2,252	482,152
1862 -	427	36	9,706	—	182,913	3,980	3,310	294,730
1863 -	7,000	16	1,257	—	98,524	5,158	2,063	193,205
1864 -	42,009	679	1,144	2,756	26,383	4,268	5,243	235,555
1865 -	36,095	611	—	1,000	36,126	846	2,087	467,775
1866 -	22,154	231	18,533	—	62,568	1,643	1,597	276,917
1867 -	6,785	5	16,006	4	226,953	3,226	704	188,826

As the estimate of the surplus of wheat available in 1868-9 published in the *Gazette* with the agricultural returns for last year has been noticed outside this Colony, it may be well to say a few words on that subject. That estimate was not published without a considerable degree of hesitation, and only under the belief that such information, if at all trustworthy, is calculated to be of considerable advantage to the agricultural and commercial interests. I also desired to demonstrate practically to the farmers the necessity of care and accuracy in returning an account of their crops to the collectors of the agricultural statistics; for if the farmers will not take the trouble to supply the collectors with correct information, it is evident that implicit confidence can not be placed on the Government statistics; and the farmers will have to thank themselves for any ill effects that may arise out of their own carelessness or indifference.

Whether the estimate be reliable or not, I apprehend that it will have served a useful purpose; and between this and next season it may be possible to obtain more certain data upon which to base our future calculations.

The prices of agricultural products for the year 1867-8, instead of being included in the crop return, as heretofore, have been placed in a separate return,—an arrangement which, it is presumed, will greatly add to the perspicuity of the returns.

An inspection of these prices, with a view to comparing the rates in the different districts, suggests some reflections which may be useful in a practical point of view, and which are worthy of the serious consideration of our agriculturists. To take wheat as an example; the price at Hobart Town is returned at 8*s.*, at Launceston at 7*s.*, the mean of which, 7*s.* 6*d.*, may be assumed as the average price on March 31, 1868. In two districts, Westbury and Deloraine, it is returned at 5*s.* 10*d.* and 4*s.* 1¼*d.* respectively; that is, there was a loss, on account of local circumstances, of 1*s.* 8*d.* on every bushel of wheat sold in Westbury, and of 3*s.* 4¾*d.* on every bushel sold in Deloraine. Supposing that the wheat crops were all sold *in situ*, there would be a loss to the farmers of Westbury of 12,129*l.*, and to those of Deloraine of 9,103*l.*, by the

difference in prices. The corresponding loss at Longford would be 13,694*l.* These sums together amount to 34,926*l.* But supposing that the wheat crops were not sold in the districts, but in the principal marts of the island, and that the loss were measured by a part only of the cost of carriage, say 6*d.* per bushel, it would still amount to 8,079*l.* for those districts. If the same investigation were pursued with regard to all the other marketable produce throughout the Colony, it would be found that, even on the most favourable supposition, the present loss to the farmers from this source is something enormous.

It is not difficult therefore to imagine what an immense gain a system of rapid and easy transport, by equalizing prices, as well as by the reduction in the cost of carriage, would confer on the agriculturist in the interior, and what a stimulus it would give to production.

The necessity to the agriculturist of mechanical appliances was strongly urged in last year's report. The following observations on the necessity of steam power in the cultivation of the soil, which appeared in *The Press* (Lyttelton) of 7th March, are so admirable, that I hope to be pardoned if the introduction of them here may seem to any to be somewhat beyond the scope of a statistical report like the present :—

"If New Zealand is to supply the English market at all in ordinary years, it can only be done by cheap production; and cheap production can be brought about only by machinery. Of machines for saving the crops by reaping and threshing, we may be said to use our full share. Indeed, we almost doubt whether, acre for acre, any English county has more machinery in use than Canterbury. At all events a very large quantity of such implements is employed amongst us. But of ploughing and cultivating machines there may be said to be none at all. One, we believe, is at work in Canterbury, and we have heard of four or five in Southland; but the whole amount of land in New Zealand cultivated by steam power is inappreciably small. And yet there is no class of machinery in which such vast improvements have been made in the course of the last five or six years as in ploughs and cultivators. Take, for instance, the report in the *Times* of the 12th December of the machinery exhibited at the Smithfield Club cattle show. We find that John Fowler and Co., of Leeds, have exhibited a cultivator for light lands fifteen feet wide, which accomplishes '*five acres an hour, or sixty acres a day in regular work.*' This is far beyond anything of which we have hitherto heard. There is a considerable quantity of land in New Zealand of the light quality to which such a cultivator would apply. But it is not always that the cultivator is suitable: a plough is necessary as well. The same report tells us that Fowler's plough for light land has been brought to such perfection that it can turn over eight furrows at once, at the rate of *two and a half acres an hour, or thirty acres a day,* on light soil in ordinary working. These are achievements in cultivation which must soon remodel the whole system of agriculture. The old fashioned farms will soon be to the steam-cultivated farms what the hand loom is to the steam power loom. Up to a very few years ago, the manual art of tilling the soil had made no important advance from the earliest periods of history. The ancient ploughs were heavier than the modern ploughs, but that was all. It was virtually the same tool, and no doubt did pretty nearly the same work. But the time is now come when mankind, in civilised countries, is about to be relieved of one of the heaviest burdens laid on them by nature. Slave labour is essential to all great progress ; because great power combined, organized, and directed, is indispensable to great results. We no longer use men for slaves, for, apart from the moral and political aspect of slavery, it is no longer necessary. God has given the steam engine as a reward to the nations which have ceased to use their fellow-creatures as slaves. Steam is the slave of all, rich and poor alike; and when its untiring energies are universally applied to the culture of the soil, the whole class of agricultural labourers will be lifted into a higher grade. They will get better wages, better homes, food, clothing, education. Thus, in the working of the economical laws of Providence, the result may be confidently predicted. If, then, New Zealand is to take any part in the supply of the older communities of the world with food, it must be at least up to the mark of the rest of the world in its mode of production. It must produce by means of machinery. Wages will rise higher than ever; but high wages will not mean expensive production, because, by the aid of machinery, one man at ten shillings a day can do as much as ten men at five shillings a day without it. It is the increased produce in proportion to the population resulting from the use of machinery, which enables and compels capital to pay higher wages to labour. We would strongly recommend our agricultural societies to obtain full and detailed statistics as to the most recent improvements in the application of steam to agriculture ; and to keep them constantly before the public. It is thus that capital may be induced to turn its attention to the subject. It would never be worth the while of a small farmer to import one of these costly steam ploughs; but small companies might be formed of ten or a dozen neighbouring farmers, who might combine to purchase one, under mutual conditions as to its use. And thus the use of steam ploughs might become as general as that of reaping or threshing machines."

To the ordinary agricultural returns, I have added this year one showing the extent to which mechanical appliances are resorted to in this Colony. A comparison of such a return, year by year, will indicate more surely than perhaps any other method what efforts we may be making to keep pace with the rest of the world in this respect. It will be observed that there is not a steam plough or cultivator in the island.

Live stock.

The number of live stock in Tasmania on the 31st March last is stated to have been as follows :—horses, 23,299, an increase as regards the previous year of 1,732 ; horned cattle, 86,598, a decrease of 1772; sheep, 1,742,914, an increase of 20,110; goats, 2,627, an increase of 141 ; mules, 7, a decrease of 4 ; asses, 5, as in last year; and pigs,

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54,287, an increase of 21,028, or 63·23 per cent. The horses seem to have been more numerous than at any time during the last 11 years; the horned cattle are very slightly in excess of the average number in the years 1862–6; the sheep show an increase upon the same average of 8,094, which, considering the ravages of fluke in many districts, is quite as much as can be expected; pigs were 14,139 above the average, having increased at a rate altogether unprecedented, at least since 1857.

An attempt has been made to ascertain the number of live stock running on Crown land, but there are serious difficulties to be surmounted before we can arrive at a very accurate result.

When speaking of the customs returns, a table was furnished showing the quantity of wool exported in the last 11 years, and the average price, as calculated from those returns. To this it may be useful to add another showing the average weight of fleece, obtained by dividing the quantity of wool exported by the number of sheep returned.

Year.	Weight of Fleece.	Year.	Weight of Fleece.
	lbs.		lbs.
1857 -	3·21	1863 -	2·59
1858 -	3·16	1864 -	2·86
1859 -	3·60	1865 -	2·81
1860 -	2·67	1866 -	2·77
1861 -	2·39	1867 -	2·69
1862 -	3·15		

The average for 1867 propably appears lower than it really was, in consequence of the fact that while the number of sheep was taken on the 31st March, the exports of wool were only brought up to the 31st December of the last year. Comparing the averages, however, for the two periods 1857–62, and 1863–7, it is found that the weight of fleece had diminished from 3·08 lbs. to 2·74 lbs. per sheep. The weight in Victoria in 1865–6 and 1866–7, calculated on similar data, was 4·37 in the former, and 5·01 in the latter period, the sheep being, it is to be presumed, of a larger kind. In New South Wales, in 1866–7, the average weight was 1·87. Whether this advantage on the part of Tasmania over the latter Colony is real or only apparent in consequence of any imperfection in the returns, one thing is clear from this investigation, namely, that as compared with former years, the weight of the fleece of Tasmanian sheep,—unless it can be shown that the Merino has taken the place of animals of larger frame,—has greatly diminished. Under any circumstances, more pains should be taken in improving the breed, and greater care bestowed upon the "getting-up" of the wool.

The return of live stock imported and slaughtered at the public slaughter-houses shows a total of 69,673 sheep, 7,001 cattle, and 2,902 pigs slaughtered; and of 35,595 sheep, and 1,935 head of cattle imported. The number imported, as given in the customs returns, was,—cattle, 1864; sheep, 38,437; pigs, 5. As compared with the preceding year, there was a decrease of 4,814 in the number of sheep, and 328 in the number of pigs slaughtered, and an increase of 636 in the cattle.

The number of cattle, sheep, and pigs to each head of population, and to each square mile of territory, in each of the Colonies, is shown below.

Colonies.	Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.	
	To an Individual.	To a Sq. Mile.	To an Individual.	To a Sq. Mile.	To an Individual.	To a Sq. Mile.
Tasmania - -	·19	3·30	17·70	66·49	·55	2·07
Victoria - -	·93	6·90	13·72	101·73	·12	·86
New South Wales -	4·11	3·70	26·80	24·14	·32	·29
South Australia -	·73	·32	23·12	10·20	·03	·01
Queensland - -	9·56	1·35	75·69	10·73	·14	·02

VI.—Law, Crime, &c.

Committals for trial.

The number of persons committed for trial in 1867 was 227, against 238 in 1866; a decrease of 11, or 4·62 per cent.

Criminals tried.

The number of criminals dealt with by the higher courts was as follows :—

	Felonies.		Misdemeanors.		Total.	
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
Supreme Court - - -	81	28	14	4	95	32
Recorder's Court, Launceston -	28	13	4	2	32	15
	109	41	18	6	127	47
Number Tried - -	150		24		174	

In the number tried there was a decrease, as compared with the preceding year, of 26, or 13 per cent. The proportion of misdemeanors to felonies was 1 in 6.

The ratio to population in 1867 was—Criminals tried, 1 in 566 or 1·77 per 1,000; convicted, 1 in 775 or 1·29 per 1,000. The convictions in 1866 were 1 in 682, or 1·592 per 1,000.

Executions. Neither in 1867 nor in 1866 was any criminal executed.

Litigation. Considerable improvement has been made on this occasion, as regards the Returns of Litigation, both in the Supreme Court and in the courts having the jurisdiction of Courts of Requests. It is believed that they are now as complete as it is possible to make them.

Probates, &c. A return has this year been added of the number of probates and letters of administration granted by the Supreme Court. The number of probates was 53, representing property to the value of 118,335*l.*; of letters of administration 21, representing 24,087*l.*

Insolvencies. The number of insolvencies during 1867 was 107, or 43 more than in 1866. The amount of scheduled assets and liabilities in the two years is shown below.

Assets.		Liabilities.	
1866.	1867.	1866.	1867.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
24,295 17 6	47,806 4 6	44,992 16 4	95,730 19 8

The total assets in 1867 thus appear to have been nearly double those of the preceding year, the liabilities considerably more than double. The amount for which each insolvent failed was, on an average, 895*l.* or 192*l.* more than in 1866. The number of insolvents in proportion to population was 1 in 920. In Victoria, in 1866, one person in every 584 was insolvent; and the average of each insolvent's liabilities was 531*l.* In New South Wales in the same year (an exceptionally severe one) one person in every 726 was insolvent; and the average amount of liabilities was 1,589*l.* In Queensland 1 in 616 was insolvent, with an average liability of 1,847*l.*

Mortgages. The number and amount of mortgages upon land registered in 1867 were—

	Number.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
Under the old system - -	222	122,198 16 5
Under "The Real Property Act"	86	37,942 0 0
Total - -	308	160,140 16 5

The number was less by 8 than in 1866, but represented a larger amount, to the extent of about 4,000*l.*

Lands' Titles Office. The return of the business of the Lands' Titles Office for 1867 shows a decrease in the number of transactions of 82; in the acreage of land dealt with, of 17,265; and in the value of the land, of 54,826*l.*

Inquests. The number of inquests in 1867 was 150 (105 males and 45 females), being 19 less than in 1866.

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VII.—EDUCATION, RELIGION, &c.

Schools. The returns relating to public schools under the Board of Education have not been received for 1867, and do not, therefore, appear in the present volume.

Ecclesiastical. An attempt has been made to obtain for the past year certain particulars from the various religious bodies, which, it is believed, would be of interest, and might become practically useful. Circulars were sent with that view to the different governing bodies, and to ministers of churches; but to 8 out of 20 no replies were received. The return is therefore presented in a very incomplete state. Perhaps on the next occasion more information will be supplied.

Sunday schools. The return of children receiving instruction in Sunday schools labours under the same imperfection as the preceding return.

Friendly societies. That of friendly societies has now been added for the first time. It was designed to furnish the information in the last publication; but the time was too limited to allow the intention to be carried out.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Births. The births registered during 1867 were 2,971, being an increase of 166 upon those of 1866. The proportion of boys to girls born was 102·66 to 100. In 1866 it was 104·12 to 100. The male births were therefore considerably below the proportion in the previous year. The birth-rate for 1867 was 30·18 per 1,000, which is greater by 1·37 per 1,000 than in 1866, but less than the mean for 10 years by 4·50 per 1,000.

Deaths. The deaths registered were 1,413 within, and 5 beyond, the limits of the Colony, being 91 more than in 1866. The death rate in 1867 was 14·36,* being 0·62 per 1,000 more than in 1866, but 1·87 per 1,000 below the rate for the 10 years 1857–66. The deaths of males were 864, and of females 554, being in the proportion of 156 to 100, or about half as many more. In England the proportion for 27 years was as 103 to 100; the maximum being 105 to 100. The proportion in each of the other Colonies in 1866 was as follows:—

Victoria	133 to 100
New South Wales	148 to 100
South Australia	126 to 100
Queensland	158 to 100

This result is very remarkable, showing, as it does, how much larger a proportion of men die in the Colonies than in the old countries. The whole subject is worthy of a much more minute investigation than it can receive in a report like the present.

The proportion of deaths of persons of 70 years of age and upwards to the total number of known ages, in Tasmania for the five years comprised in the period 1863–7, was 11·77 per cent. In Victoria in 1866, it was only 2·277 per cent. In Queensland, the proportion of deaths at the age of 55 and upwards for the most favourable of six years was only 7·74 per cent. of the whole number of deaths of the year. In South Australia, the number from 50 and upwards only amounted in 1866 to 12·23 per cent. of the known ages. It thus appears that the climate of Tasmania is exceptionally favourable to longevity.

But, favourable as the climate of this Colony is to health and longevity, it might be rendered still more so, were the most ordinary sanitary measures taken to preserve the purity of the air in the principal towns. Nothing, I believe, but the extreme rarity and absorptive power of the air has saved us from the usual consequences of the neglect of proper precautions in this respect. The following from the Report of the Registrar-General of England in the Journal of the Statistical Society of London, October to December last, shows what can be done by a better system:—"Salisbury continues to "furnish an instance of the advantages resulting from good hygienic arrangements; it is "more than six years since the census was taken, and the present population of towns "can only be approximately estimated, but, assuming that Salisbury has increased in "population since 1861 in the same annual ratio as in the previous ten years, then the "mortality during the quarter has been at the low rate of 10 per 1,000 annually, a "result as creditable to the authorities as it is satisfactory to the citizens, whose years "of life are prolonged. That the healthiness of this city is mainly owing to the sanitary

* Only one "transported offender" died during the year, and no correction is therefore needed on this account.

" system now in operation, and not chiefly to advantages of situation, is proved by the " fact that during the ten years 1841–50, the average annual number of deaths was " 28 per 1,000 living, and in the following ten years it was 24 per 1,000; it also suffered " severely from epidemic cholera in 1849." TASMANIA.

The number of marriages in 1867 was 597, an increase upon 1866 of 26, or 4·55 per cent. The ratio per 1,000 of population was 6·06 against 5·86 in 1866. The rate was 1·74 per 1,000 below the mean for ten years, 1857–66, and was the lowest for any year, with the exception of 1866, of the series. The rate in Scotland ranged, during the eleven years 1857–67, from 6·5 to 7·5 per 1,000. From the Report of the Registrar General of England of 1866, it appears that the marriage rate ranges in England from 8·02 to 8·94 per 1,000; in France from 7·54 to 8·47; and in Austria from 7·38 to 9·77. Marriages.

The number of cases of disease treated in charitable institutions during the year 1867 is stated to have been 2,266, and the number of deaths, 216. There was, therefore, an increase on the cases of 52, and on the deaths of 11. The death rate, calculated on the number of "cases," was 9·53 per cent. In six general English hospitals the mean death rate for five years (calculated on the "admissions") is stated to have been 9·8 per cent.* Diseases and deaths in charitable institutions.

Five cases of scarlatina are returned in 1867 at the Queen's asylum; 2 of diphtheria at the General Hospital, Hobart Town, and 1 at the hospital, Campbell Town.

Only 8 persons were vaccinated at the Public Medical Institutions during 1867. Vaccinations.

CONCLUSION.

It will have been seen that a review of the condition of the Colony in 1867 presents but few encouraging features: in almost every direction the same law of decadence is found to have been in operation as in the preceding years; but there are now certain circumstances which afford reasonable hope that before long the aspect of affairs in this Colony will have been much improved. Since the writing of this Report was commenced, the "dead-lock" in Victoria has been brought to an end; and with the resumption of payments there, the trade with this Colony may be expected to revive. The renewal of telegraphic communication with that Colony will also conduce towards the same result. Since the statistics of 1866 were published, the credit of this Colony as a borrower has been established on the London Stock Exchange, and there is therefore now no difficulty in obtaining money for the improvement of the public estate. The present state of the English money market is peculiarly favourable for financial operations; the distrust which has been felt by capitalists in regard to European investments has turned their favourable attention to Australasia as a field for the profitable employment of capital. The lively interest which has been shown in hop-growing promises to add largely to that branch of our productions; a tender for the construction of the Launceston and Western Railway has now been taken, and the work must be completed within 20 months from its commencement; the Mersey railway is also understood to be favourably progressing; and the agitation which has lately sprung up in other districts for improved means of internal communication, will, if it be carried to a practical result, remove the chief difficulty which the farmer has to contend against, and bring to light many latent sources of wealth. The Colonists seem gradually becoming habituated to the idea, that competition with other countries is simply impossible, uuless the competitor avails himself of the best aids to progress which the age affords; and the need being thus acknowledged, it may be hoped that steps will soon be taken to supply it. On the whole, therefore, there is more ground of encouragement as regards the future than has appeared for several years past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

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* Dr. Guy in Journal of Statistical Society of London, June 1867, p. 294.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

REPORT to The Honorable HENRY AYERS, M.L.C., Chief Secretary, &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide,
July 31, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the "Statistical Register of South Australia for 1867," together with a report for the information of his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, exhibiting in a succinct form the principal features of interest connected with the progress of the community during the twelve months terminated 31st December last.

Population.

The inhabitants of the Province, on the last day of the year, were estimated to number 172,860, or an addition of 3,707 souls to the number at the commencement of 1867. This is the smallest increase recorded since 1860, when, as in the year under review, the departures from the Province exceeded the arrivals. The natural increase of the population from the excess of births over deaths amounted to 4,102 persons—2,052 males and 2,050 females; but from these must be deducted the excess of emigration over immigration (by sea), numbering 395 souls—333 males and 62 females—showing a net addition of only 3,707 persons—1,719 males and 1,988 females, or of only 2·2 per cent., as compared with an increase of four and a-half per cent. during the previous year. In the three years immediately preceding, the annual augmentation of the population amounted on the average to five per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Seven thousand and forty-one children were born in 1867, or 259 more than in 1866. The birth rate amounted, therefore, to 41·6 per thousand of the population, as compared with 41 the year before, and 45 in 1865.

The male births were 3,616, and the female 3,425 (as against 3,470 and 3,312 respectively in 1866), or 105 boys to every 100 girls.

The rate of mortality was slightly below that of the previous year, amounting to 17·4 per thousand persons, compared with 17·5 per thousand. The total number of deaths was 2,939—males 1,564, and females 1,375—showing an increase of 27 males and 159 females, or together 186 persons. Among adults the mortality was much below that of the preceding year, but the deaths of children were far more numerous, owing to the prevalence of measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and croup.

Out of 2,939 deaths, 1831, or 62 per cent., were children under five years of age, as against 51 per cent. in the previous year. The same high rate was reached in 1864, when scarlatina was so fatal among young children. Infantile mortality was also greater, the number of children dying under two years of age being 1,558, or 53 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 50 per cent. in 1866, and 48 per cent. in 1865.

The natural increase of the population amounted to 4,102 persons, or only 73 more than in 1866; and being at the rate of 2·43 per cent. on the number living at the commencement of the year.

More marriages were solemnized, 1,379 being registered as compared with 1,299 in the previous year—an increase of 80.

Immigration and Emigration.

Only one emigrant ship arrived during 1867, landing 349 souls—198 males and 151 females—Government assisted immigration having been discontinued for a time. Notwithstanding the introduction of these persons at the expense of the State, the total emigration exceeded the immigration by 395 persons—333 males and 62 females; a similar circumstance not having occurred since 1860.

In the preceding year our population had been augmented by an excess of arrivals over departures by sea amounting to 2,820 persons—1,501 males and 1,319 females.

The following table shows the total immigration, free and assisted; the total emigration; the balance of arrivals over departures; and the number of immigrants introduced at the expense of the State during the past decade:—

Years.	Immigration.			Emigration.			Excess of Immigration over Emigration.			Number of Immigrants at the Public Expense.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1858 - -	4,826	3,029	7,855	2,499	1,110	3,609	2,327	1,919	4,246	1,894	1,659	3,553
1859 - -	2,910	1,959	4,869	2,271	1,380	3,651	639	579	1,218	913	1,098	2,011
1860 - -	3,109	1,265	4,374	3,444	1,458	4,902	335*	193*	528*	492	480	972
1861 - -	2,181	946	3,127	1,243	834	2,077	938	112	1,050	18	3	21
1862 - -	2,091	1,139	3,230	1,787	898	2,685	304	241	545	281	330	611
1863 - -	2,685	1,549	4,234	2,022	870	2,892	663	679	1,342	811	688	1,499
1864 - -	3,720	2,238	5,958	1,776	900	2,676	1,944	1,338	3,282	1,459	1,188	2,647
1865 - -	5,318	3,151	8,469	2,669	1,034	3,703	2,649	2,117	4,766	2,692	1,933	4,625
1866 - -	4,400	2,555	6,955	2,899	1,236	4,135	1,501	1,319	2,820	2,252	1,639	3,891
1867 - -	2,482	1,169	3,651	2,815	1,231	4,046	333*	62*	395*	198	151	349
Totals -	33,722	19,000	52,722	23,425	10,951	34,376	10,297	8,049	18,346	11,010	9,169	20,179

* Excess of Emigration.

It appears from the above statement that the loss of population was not so much owing to an increased emigration as a falling off in the number of immigrants. The total number of persons leaving the Colony was less than in 1866; but owing to the cessation of Government immigration the number of arrivals diminished nearly one-half.

During the past 10 years the population has been increased by immigration to the extent of 18,346 souls, and as the total sum spent on immigration has been 359,534*l.*, it follows that the cost of their introduction has averaged 19*l.* 12*s.* per head. The actual number of Government immigrants was 20,179, showing a deficiency of 1,833 souls, or of nine per cent. Until other attractions present themselves, it would seem that assisted immigration is the only method of maintaining the strength of the population.

Public Worship.

Nineteen additional places of worship were opened during the past year, increasing the accommodation provided by the several religious denominations by 6,680 sittings. The total number of churches and chapels is 511, in addition to which 186 rooms are used for religious services, together providing sittings for 105,741 persons, or sufficient for the whole population of 14 years of age and upwards. The following return shows the progress made during the past three years:—

—	1865.	1866.	1867.
Number of churches or chapels -	461	492	511
„ sittings in ditto - -	83,843	91,816	98,496
„ rooms used, &c. - -	173	153	186
„ sittings in ditto - - -	6,507	6,361	7,245
Total number of places of worship -	634	645	697
„ sittings provided -	90,350	98,177	105,741
Sunday schools - - -	384	398	416
Sunday-school teachers - - -	3,484	3,807	3,961
Sunday scholars - - -	23,739	25,914	26,506

Eighteen more Sunday schools are returned, making the total number to be 416, with 3,961 teachers, and 26,506 scholars, of whom 13,221 were boys and 13,285 were girls.

Education.

Three hundred and eight licensed schools were in operation under the direction of the Central Board of Education during 1867, being 16 more than last year. These schools were conducted by 205 schoolmasters, and 103 school mistresses. The total number of children on the roll was 14,600, or slightly below the number given in the previous returns; 8,240 were boys and 6,360 girls, or 56·4 per cent. of the former and 43·6 of the latter. Only 78 per cent. of the total number on the roll attended,

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namely, 11,448 children, being nearly the same proportion as in former years. Of the whole number attending school, one-half the children were from seven to ten years of age, one-fourth under seven, and one-fourth eleven years old and upwards. Out of 14,600 scholars on the rolls, only 1,451 were at licensed schools in the city, and 1,155 in other corporate towns, 11,994 attending schools in the country districts.

The number of school-houses held in trust by the Board is now 74, the aid supplied by Government towards their erection having amounted to 13,986*l.*

The total amount received from parents as school fees was 14,628*l.*, which, together with the Government grant for stipends, 16,098*l.*, shows 30,726*l.* to have been received by teachers; giving an average income of 105*l.*

The Government grant averaged for each scholar 22*s.*, and the school fees 20*s.*, being slightly above the rates in the previous year.

The greatest number of destitute children that attended school at any one time during the year was 1,365, or 174 more than in 1866; the daily average number at all the schools was 1,266. The cost to the Government amounted to 20*s.* for each child for the 12 months.

During the past decade Parliament has voted the sum of 181,978*l.* for educational purposes—the sum expended last year amounting to 25,353*l.* as compared with 21,683*l.* the year previous.

Revenue and Expenditure.

During 1867 the public revenue amounted to 716,294*l.*, showing a decrease of 233,479*l.* upon the income of the preceding year. This deficiency was occasioned chiefly by a decreased demand for land, a reduction in the land revenue, and by a general depression in trade, causing the Customs receipts to fall about 12 per cent., or to the amount collected in 1864. Other items of revenue maintained their position, or slightly increased in amount. The land sales amounted only to 171,763, as against 331,285*l.*, or a deficiency of 159,522*l.* The rents from the occupiers of waste lands fell from 119,455*l.* to 73,855*l.*, or by no less than 45,600*l.* The Customs duties amounted to 200,832*l.*, or 29,302*l.* less; this declension may be partly accounted for by the large stocks that had accumulated in the two preceding years having precluded importations to the usual extent.

The Customs revenue being the only source of taxation, and indicating the power of the community to purchase duty-paying articles, it is interesting to note the amount of Customs receipts per head of the population during the past few years. In 1864, in which year the tariff was the same as now, the Customs receipts averaged 27*s.* 4*d.* per head; in 1865, 30*s.*; in 1866, 27*s.* 2*d.*; and in 1867, 23*s.* 3*d.* per head of the population. Taking the average of the four years, 27*s.* appears to be the annual contribution to the State by each inhabitant.

Having commenced the year with a balance in hands of Treasurer of 403,091*l.*, the expenditure was maintained, notwithstanding a declining revenue, at nearly the same rate as that of the previous year. The total payments in 1866 being 1,064,323*l.*; and in 1867, 1,003,271*l.*, showing a decrease of 61,052*l.* only. The amount spent upon public works, 299,288*l.*; the payment of interest and sinking fund of bonded debt, 92,562*l.*; miscellaneous services, 62,723*l.*; and immigration, 24,887*l.*; together 479,460*l.*, compose the principal items. The balance in hand at the close of the year amounted to 116,114*l.*

From a return showing the gross receipts and payments on account of the public revenue, exclusive of loans for public works, it will be seen that during the past decade the public income has amounted to 6,690,423*l.*, and the expenditure to 6,824,510*l.* Of the former sum the general revenue has contributed 4,052,554*l.*; the remaining 2,637,869*l.* being proceeds of the land fund. During the same period no less than 3,173,430*l.* has been expended upon public works (exclusive of loans) and immigration, namely, 2,813,895*l.* on the former, and 359,535*l.* on the latter service, irrespective of large sums which are charged to "Establishments," although incurred really for the survey and sale of the land, the carrying out of large public undertakings, and the conduct of immigration.

Loans for Public Works.

The public debt of the province amounted, on the 31st December 1867, to 1,077,750*l.*, showing an increase of 302,150*l.* during the twelve months. Bonds to the amount of 351,500*l.* were issued on account of loans authorized for construction

of railways and main roads; and 49,350*l.* was the value of the bonds of previous loans redeemed during the like period, leaving the amount outstanding as above stated. The public indebtedness has, therefore, risen from 4*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* to 6*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* per head of the population.

Banking.

Half-yearly comparative statements of the average liabilities and assets of each of the six banks having operations within the province have been duly published. The following is an abstract of the aggregate average assets and liabilities for the last half-year of the years 1865, 1866, and 1867 respectively:—

LIABILITIES.

—	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Notes in circulation	340,512 2 10	239,372 8 2	247,786 4 1
Bills in circulation	12,138 12 7	42,246 19 4	10,332 17 1
Balances due to other banks	26,415 4 7	32,210 9 2	39,600 18 9
Deposits	1,568,151 1 1	1,401,565 9 5	1,272,164 10 9
Total average liabilities	£1,947,217 1 1	£1,715,395 6 1	£1,569,884 10 8

ASSETS.

—	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coin and bullion	445,996 19 8	318,927 5 5	378,265 17 3
Government securities	4,600 0 0	4,600 0 0	38,850 14 10
Landed property and bank premises	69,257 16 11	86,404 9 1	99,745 8 1
Notes and bills of other banks	13,325 11 8	26,611 8 9	17,367 7 2
Balances due from other banks	73,600 3 5	63,426 7 3	74,441 9 8
Notes and bills discounted and other debts due to banks not enumerated.	2,424,924 8 8	3,120,092 10 10	2,559,742 14 1
Total average assets	£3,031,705 0 4	£3,620,062 1 4	£3,168,413 11 1

In comparison with the preceding year, it will be seen that the principal fact brought to notice is the large diminution in the amount of accommodation afforded by the banks, although the reduction in the amount of deposits was comparatively trifling. In the half year ending December 1866, the notes and bills discounted amounted to 3,120,092*l.*; in the same period, 1867, they averaged 2,559,742*l.*, a decline of 560,350*l.*, or eighteen per cent. The total average liabilities have decreased from 1,715,395*l.*, to 1,569,884*l.*; and the aggregate average assets from 3,620,062*l.*, to 3,168,413*l.* The note circulation increased from 239,372*l.* to 247,786*l.*; and the coin and bullion, and Government securities held by the banks, from 323,527*l.* to 417,115*l.* The deposits fell from 1,401,565*l.* to 1,272,164*l.*, showing a decrease of 129,401*l.*, or only nine per cent. as compared with a decrease of 166,585*l.* in the previous year's returns. The rate of interest on fixed deposits for twelve months was reduced from six to five per cent. per annum. The course of exchange on London fluctuated but little, varying from half to one and a half per cent. premium.

Savings Bank.

Considering the almost universal depression which existed during the year under review, the returns from the savings bank are of a very satisfactory character, and bear evidence of the frugality of the industrial classes. The number of depositors increased by 1,004, as against an increase of only 603 in the preceding year, and the amount deposited was greater by 20,780*l.* The total number of new accounts opened was 2,321; and the amount deposited 145,207*l.*, as compared with 124,427*l.* The amount withdrawn was less by 13,676*l.*, being 133,848*l.*, as against 147,524*l.* The amount to the credit of depositors, at the close of the year, including interest, was 274,508*l.*, or 25,179*l.*

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more than at the last balance. The following statement, showing the operations of the institution during the past five years, is of interest:—

—	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New accounts opened - -	1,440	1,806	2,333	2,135	2,321
Increase in depositors - -	834	1,132	1,233	603	1,004
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount deposited - -	91,783	120,924	131,115	124,427	145,207
„ withdrawn - -	63,393	87,731	115,751	147,524	133,848
„ depositors' balances -	189,143	231,972	258,693	249,329	274,508
„ reserve funds -	12,062	13,431	15,378	17,370	19,587
„ total funds - -	201,205	245,403	274,071	266,700	294,095

The total sum lent on mortgage of freehold property was 193,428*l.*, the rate of interest charged being eight per cent. per annum. The rate of interest allowed to depositors was six per cent. per annum, the same as last year. The reserve fund amounted to 19,587*l.*, and the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds was invested in Government securities.

Imports and Exports.

The commercial transactions of 1867 were of a more favourable character than those of 1866, for whilst the total amount of trade was nearly as large as in that year, the exports of produce were much greater, and the quantity of goods imported proportionately smaller. In place of a small balance of produce exported over imports consumed, viz., 23,595*l.*, the large sum of 658,228*l.* represented the difference between the import and export trade.

The combined import and export trade amounted to 5,671,016*l.* or only 22,863*l.* less than in 1866. The total imports were valued at 2,506,394*l.*, as against 2,835,142*l.* or a decrease of 328,748*l.*, or twelve per cent.; and the aggregate exports amounted to 3,164,622*l.*, or 305,885*l.* more than in 1866, being 11 per cent. additional.

The following statement shows the combined import and export trade for each year since 1858, inclusive, the total imports, the imports retained for home consumption, the imports re-exported, the aggregate exports, the value of staple produce exported, and the difference between the latter and the value of imports consumed in the province:—

Year.	Combined Import and Export Trade.	Total Imports.	Imports retained for Home Consumption.	Imports re-exported.	Total Exports.	Exports of Produce of the Colony.	Balance Produce exported over Imports Consumed.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1858 - -	3,281,536	1,769,351	1,612,207	157,144	1,512,185	1,355,041	257,166
1859 - -	3,163,370	1,507,494	1,353,783	153,711	1,655,876	1,502,165	148,382
1860 - -	3,423,307	1,639,591	1,432,201	207,390	1,783,716	1,576,326	144,125
1861 - -	4,008,329	1,976,018	1,782,346	193,672	2,032,311	1,838,639	56,293
1862 - -	3,966,452	1,820,656	1,595,347	225,309	2,145,796	1,920,487	325,140
1863 - -	4,387,096	2,028,279	1,764,818	263,461	2,358,817	2,095,356	330,538
1864 - -	5,718,476	2,412,931	2,122,923	290,008	3,305,545	3,015,537	892,614
1865 - -	6,057,442	2,927,596	2,552,407	375,189	3,129,846	2,754,657	202,250
1866 - -	5,693,879	2,835,142	2,516,128	319,014	2,858,737	2,539,723	23,595
1867 - -	5,671,016	2,506,394	2,117,867	388,527	3,164,622	2,776,095	658,228

The combined import and export trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 2,624,268*l.*, as compared with 3,036,138*l.*, showing a decrease of 411,870*l.*, or thirteen per cent. The imports therefrom were of the value of 1,198,243*l.*, and the exports 1,426,025*l.*, showing a balance of trade in favour of the Colony of 227,781*l.* In the preceding year our imports from Great Britain exceeded our exports by 724,407*l.* As compared with that year the imports of British goods declined to 682,030*l.* or sixty per cent., whilst the exports to the mother country increased by 270,160*l.* or twenty-four per cent.

With Victoria the combined import and export trade was slightly greater, amounting to 1,372,971*l.*, as against 1,337,987*l.*, or an addition of 34,984*l.* We imported from Melbourne goods of the value of 454,358*l.* in place of 402,692*l.* last year, and shipped to that port produce and goods valued at 918,613*l.*, as against 935,295*l.*, showing an increase of 51,666*l.* in the former, and a decrease of 16,682*l.* in the latter case. The balance of trade in 1867 was in favour of South Australia to the amount of 464,254*l.* and of 532,602*l.* in 1866.

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Transactions with New South Wales were also of greater magnitude, but the balance of trade was against the Colony to the amount of 106,039*l.* The imports and exports together amounted to 932,296*l.*, as compared with 647,624*l.*, or 284,672*l.* additional. The imports from thence reached 519,168*l.*, or 224,097*l.* more; of this 414,415*l.* was the value of river-borne wool for transhipment, which in the preceding season amounted to only 138,405*l.* Our exports to New South Wales amounted to 413,128*l.*, principally breadstuffs, as against 352,553*l.* in 1866, or an increase of 60,575*l.* sterling. Of these exports 94,914*l.* went by the way of the river Murray, as against 88,326*l.* in the previous year. The whole of the river trade of 1866 was transacted with New South Wales and reached half a million sterling.

With Queensland the exports advanced from 107,651*l.* to 110,959*l.*; the balance of trade in favour of this Colony amounting to 103,267*l.* Shipments to New Zealand advanced from 65,586*l.* to 83,835*l.*, the imports thence amounting to 2,149*l.* only. From Tasmania we imported timber, &c., of value of 15,887*l.*, as against 26,469*l.* in the previous year. With Western Australia, owing to the more regular communication, business relations are quickly extending—the combined import and export trade with that Colony amounting to 88,159*l.*, as compared with 49,530*l.* in 1866. The value of the wool sent here for transhipment was 11,431*l.* in 1867, and 861*l.* in the previous year; the total imports in the two years being 38,202*l.*, and 5,031*l.*, respectively. The exports hence consist of flour and general merchandise, the balance of trade in our favour being 6,755*l.* sterling.

The exports of breadstuffs to the Cape amounted to 47,896*l.*, and of copper, &c., to India to 69,343*l.* in value, compared with 2,692*l.* and 144,121*l.* in 1866. From Mauritius we imported 137,248*l.* worth of sugar, &c., as against 116,973*l.*, that island taking flour, &c., of the value of 19,907*l.* and 8,879*l.* in the respective years.

With other countries the export trade was almost nominal, the figures being, 17,347*l.* to Brazil, 6,810*l.* to Singapore, 3,124*l.* to Batavia, and 2,062*l.* to Hong Kong.

The imports from China amounted to 56,650*l.*, as against 26,576*l.*; from Sweden and Norway, Hamburg, and the United States we received the usual cargoes—valued at 36,534*l.*, 9,353*l.*, and 23,006*l.* respectively.

The imports of coin and bullion amounted to 93,392*l.*, all but 325*l.* being retained in the Colony; in the previous year we exported specie to the amount of 86,930*l.*, and only received 68,050*l.* in return, showing a balance of 18,880*l.* against the Colony.

Exports, the Produce of the Colony.

Following previous custom, I have analysed the returns relating to the exportation of products or manufactures of the Colony, and prepared statements showing fairly and concisely the progress of each branch of industry during the 10 years just closed. The first table subjoined gives the total value of the colonial produce exported, and of the three principal staples, in the years 1858, 1862, and 1867, respectively, the commencement, middle, and termination of the first decade; also the aggregate value of such exports during the quinquennial periods ending 1862 and 1867; together with the average annual shipments in the same periods, and the proportion which the shipments of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral products respectively bore to the total shipments :—

Period.	Total Exports of Produce.	Of which Exports.			
		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Wool.	Copper and other Minerals.	Miscellaneous Products.
	£	£	£	£	£
In the year 1858 - -	1,355,041	525,398	420,833	373,282	35,528
„ 1862 - -	1,920,487	633,241	635,270	547,619	104,357
„ 1867 - -	2,776,095	1,037,085	919,532	750,170	69,308
Total in five years, 1858–62 -	8,192,658	2,924,795	2,737,455	2,230,628	299,780
„ 1863–67 -	13,181,368	5,122,675	4,222,778	3,428,800	407,115
Average of five years, 1858–62 -	1,638,131	580,959	547,491	446,125	59,956
„ 1863–67 -	2,636,273	1,024,535	844,556	685,760	81,423
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1858–62 - - -	100·0	35·4	33·4	27·2	3·9
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1863–67 - - -	100·0	38·8	32·1	26·0	3·1

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It will be seen that the total exports of produce during the past 10 years has amounted to over 21,250,000*l.* sterling; the shipments during the latter half of that period exceeding those of the former by 50 per cent.

The exports during the five years ended 1862, averaged 1,638,131*l.* yearly; whilst during the five years ended 1867, the average annual exports had increased to 2,636,273*l.*

In 1858 the produce exported was valued at 1,355,041*l.*, made up as follows:—Breadstuffs, 525,398*l.*; wool, 420,833*l.*; copper and other minerals, 373,282*l.*; and miscellaneous products, 35,528*l.* In 1867, the exports had increased to 2,776,095*l.*, that is, more than doubled in 10 years, the several staples being shipped in the following proportions:—Breadstuffs, 1,037,085*l.*, increased 97 per cent.; wool, 919,532*l.*, increased 118 per cent.; minerals, 750,170*l.*, increased 100 per cent.; and miscellaneous articles 69,308*l.*, an increase of 50 per cent.

The following statement shows as closely as possible the relative value of wheat, wool, and copper, as compared with the total exports of produce.

Five Years, ending with	Ratio of Average of Five Years' Exports of each Class to Total Exports = 100.			
	Breadstuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1858	40·6	30·7	25·4	3·3
1859	39·3	31·5	27·1	2·1
1860	38·2	31·6	27·6	2·6
1861	38·0	32·5	26·7	2·8
1862	35·5	33·4	27·2	3·9
1863	35·2	33·9	27·0	3·9
1864	38·8	31·8	25·7	3·7
1865	41·2	30·8	24·5	3·5
1866	38·3	31·9	26·2	3·6
1867	38·8	32·1	26·0	3·1

Taking the average of the five years terminating with 1862, the value of breadstuffs formed 35·5, wool 33·4, copper 27·2, and miscellaneous articles 3·9 per cent. of the total exports. Taking the like average for the similar period ending in 1867, we find breadstuffs contributed 38·8, wool 32·1, copper 26·0, and miscellaneous articles 3·1 per cent. of the gross produce.

Breadstuffs, grain, &c.

Great activity in the export wheat and flour trade was occasioned by the demand for the English market in 1867, which fortunately set in just as a most prolific harvest had been gathered. The area under wheat had increased from 410,608 acres to 457,628 acres, yielding 6,561,451 bushels, as compared with 3,587,800 bushels in the year preceding; the average yield per acre being 14 bushels 20 lbs., as against 8 bushels 44 lbs. The average price of wheat throughout the year was 4*s.* 5*d.* per bushel, or 1*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1866. Although the shipments were one fourth greater than the highest export previously recorded; viz., in 1864, when 76,553 tons, valued at 1,464,953*l.* were shipped, the money value was one fourth less, inasmuch as in 1864 we sold at 8*s.* 6*d.*, and last year could obtain but 4*s.* 5*d.* per bushel on the average.

Compared with last year, when the export demand was very limited, and the harvest deficient by nearly one third, the wheat trade of 1867 appears at first sight to have been extremely large; but reference to the following table, giving the progress during the past five years, will show the advance was not greater than might be expected in a favourable season:—

Year.	Acres under Wheat.	Wheat Harvest.	Average Yield per Acre.	Flour and Wheat shipped.	Average price Wheat, per Bushel.	Total Value Breadstuffs, Grain, &c, shipped.
		Bushels.	Bs. lbs.	Tons.	*s.* *d.*	£
1863	320,160	3,841,824	12 0	60,434	4 10	747,116
1864	335,758	4,691,919	14 0	76,553	8 6	1,464,593
1865	390,836	4,252,949	11 0	60,513	8 7	1,228,480
1866	410,608	3,587,800	8 44	38,808	6 2	645,401
1867	457,628	6,561,451	14 20	97,311	4 5	1,037,085

During the three years, 1863, 1864, and 1865, the harvests of which years averaged 12⅓ bushels to the acre, or very slightly above the average of the past ten years, we exported an average of 66,000 tons of breadstuffs; during 1867, the area under cultivation having in the interval increased one third, we exported 97,000 tons, or nearly fifty per cent. more.

Owing to the fluctuations in the price of wheat, the returns of *value* of this export would frequently only mislead, and consequently necessitate a comparison of *quantities*, for which purpose the following tabular statement, giving the shipments of flour, wheat, bran, and pollard, during 1858, 1862, and 1867; also the total exports for the quinquennial periods ending 1862 and 1867; and the average shipments annually during those periods:—

Period.	Flour.	Wheat.	Total in Flour, at 45 bushels to ton.	Bran and Pollard.
	Tons.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1858 - -	22,982	287,152	29,363	4,931
„ 1862 - -	35,604	696,960	51,092	6,700
„ 1867 - -	43,703	2,412,344	97,311	3,274
Total in five years, 1858–62 -	132,113	2,189,992	180,779	24,139
„ 1863–67 -	193,989	6,283,512	333,618	26,243
Average of five years, 1858–62 -	26,423	437,998	36,156	4,828
„ 1863–67 -	38,798	1,256,702	66,723	5,248

It will be noted that in 1858 29,363 tons of breadstuffs were sent away; in 1862, 51,092 tons; and in 1867, no less than 97,311 tons; so greatly has production increased during the past ten years. Again, the first five years of the decade showed a total export of 180,779 tons, averaging 36,156 tons yearly; while the last five years gave a total shipment of 333,618 tons, or an average of 66,723 tons yearly; showing that, irrespective of seasons favourable or otherwise, the production of breadstuffs has nearly doubled during the space of ten years.

For the first time Great Britain appears as a consumer to any extent of South Australian wheat and flour; 149,745 quarters of the former and 3,947 tons of the latter having being shipped in 1867. New South Wales, however, was the largest customer, taking 14,318 tons of flour and 78,726 quarters of wheat, as against 12,074 tons and 39,707 quarters in the previous year. The export to Queensland consisting of flour only, amounted to 8,829 tons, as compared with 5,926 tons in 1866. Victoria took 5,597 tons of flour and 39,707 quarters of wheat, as against 8,476 tons and 22,883 quarters; and New Zealand 3,601 tons and 23,916 quarters, as against 2,353 tons and 9,269 quarters in 1866. 2,946 tons of flour and 9,007 quarters of wheat were shipped to the Cape; 1,542 tons flour to the Mauritius, and 1,529 tons to Brazil; all largely in excess of former shipments. Small parcels, of about 250 tons each, were dispatched to India, Singapore, Batavia, and Hong Kong. Western Australia took only 406 tons flour, or about half the quantity she purchased in the preceding year.

Wool.

Although the total number of bales of wool shipped during 1867 exceeded that of the previous year by 4,418, the actual quantity of South Australian wool *exported*, was slightly below that shipped during 1866, viz., 389,328 lbs.; the increase in the exports, arising from the large quantities of Murray-borne wool arriving for transhipment, amounting to 5,618,550 lbs.; and to imports from Western Australia weighing 213,800 lbs. Reference, however, to a subsequent table will show that the clip of 1866–7 was largely in excess of that of the preceding year, yielding 24,026,669 lbs., as against 18,005,111 lbs. The aggregate quantity of wool shipped was 66,395 bales, weighing 22,633,792 lbs. and valued at 1,144,341*l.* sterling. In the previous year 61,977 bales were shipped, weighing 20,908,085 lbs. and worth 1,064,486*l.*

After making the deductions above referred to, it appears the quantity shipped as the produce of this Colony amounted to 56,003 bales, 19,350,195 lbs. in weight, and valued at 919,532*l.*; the clip shipped in the year 1866 having amounted to 58,540 bales,

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weighing 19,739,523 lbs. and worth 990,173*l.* The following statement shows the several particulars of the wool trade of the past three years:—

Year ended 31st December.	1865.	1866.	1867.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
From Port Adelaide	9,734,297	12,164,497	12,948,653
Port Wakefield	1,908,678	3,374,226	1,138,200
Port Robe	1,892,460	1,539,500	1,625,200
Port Augusta	998,315	857,188	2,329,515
Port MacDonnell	1,217,013	1,423,919	1,059,285
Port Wallaroo	137,007	—	—
Port Victor	382,120	113,400	—
Port Caroline	—	266,793	249,442
Total Export of South Australian wool	16,269,890	19,739,523	19,350,195
Produce of other Colonies	2,675,535	1,168,562	3,283,597
Total shipment (lbs.)	18,945,425	20,908,085	22,633,792
Total shipment (bales)	56,182	61,977	66,395
	£	£	£
Total value of South Australian wool	821,482	990,173	919,532
Total value of other wool	152,915	74,313	224,809
Total value	974,397	1,064,486	1,144,341

The shipments of wool by way of Melbourne were greater than in 1866, owing to the larger proportion of Murray-borne wool; out of a total export of 66,395 bales, 46,607 were shipped direct to England, and 19,788 *viâ* Melbourne. In the preceding season 48,276 out of 61,977 bales were shipped direct, and 13,701 by way of the neighbouring Colony.

It is desirable, however, to bear in mind, when estimating the production of wool from season to season, that at the close of the year, the shipment of wool is at its height, and consequently a week's difference either earlier or later in the sailing of one or two wool ships would materially affect the returns. To avoid any error of this nature the following statement of the shipments from June to June is appended, which shows the actual production of each of the clips of the past five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Port Adelaide	10,112,815	10,381,539	9,277,556	11,448,696	16,405,079
„ Wakefield	—	1,833,800	2,981,078	2,301,826	1,573,750
„ Robe	1,816,300	1,760,400	1,736,460	1,639,400	1,480,480
„ MacDonnell	541,380	1,014,850	800,790	1,468,772	1,626,097
„ Wallaroo	65,000	—	77,507	—	—
„ Augusta	4,294,400	2,206,325	998,315	857,188	2,570,915
„ Victor or Port Elliot	6,138	294,000	179,800	—	—
„ Caroline	—	—	72,383	289,229	370,348
Total weight (lbs.)	16,836,033	17,490,914	16,123,889	18,005,111	24,026,669

The above return is also useful as indicating the progress of the several pastoral districts; but it must be noted that only the wool actually shipped direct from the respective port is shown, and not that delivered coastwise, at Port Adelaide. The following figures gives the quantity and value of South Australian wool shipped in 1858, 1862, and 1867; also during the quinquennial periods terminating in the years 1862 and 1867, and the average annual shipments of those periods:—

Period.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£
In the year 1858	7,775,225	420,833
„ 1862	13,229,009	635,270
„ 1867	19,350,195	919,532
Total in five years, 1858–62	55,396,711	2,737,455
„ 1863–67	87,018,490	4,222,778
Average of five years, 1858–62	11,079,342	547,491
„ 1863–67	17,403,698	844,556

Under more propitious circumstances than have existed during the past five years, a greater measure of progress than is shown in the above table might have been recorded, but it is nevertheless satisfactory to find that the average shipment of wool of that period was more than half as much again as that of the preceding five years. In the five years ending 1862, the average annual shipment was 11,079,342 lbs.; and in the five years just closed, 17,403,698 lbs. In the year 1858, 7,775,225 lbs. were exported; in 1862, 13,229,009 lbs.; and in 1867, 19,350,195 lbs., showing a rate of progression of two-thirds and of one-half during the respective intervening periods.

Minerals.

Mineral produce to the value of 750,170*l.* was shipped during the year under review; this amount being 74,331*l.* below the value exported in 1866. Fine copper was shipped in greater quantity, 156,863 cwts., value 627,384*l.*, in lieu of 129,272 cwts., value 584,509*l.*, showing an increase of 27,591 cwts., and in value 42,875*l.*; the average weekly shipment of fine copper was, therefore, 150 tons, as against 125 tons per week in 1866, and 100 tons in 1865. Less copper ore was sent away, the total export being 11,430 tons, value 113,409*l.*, as compared with 16,824 tons, value 225,683*l.*; showing a decrease in quantity of 5,394 tons, and in value of 112,274*l.* Lead and lead ores were also exported, the former in larger quantity, and the latter below the exports of the previous year. The following table gives the quantities and values of the several descriptions of ores and metals exported during the past five years:—

Mineral.		1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
Fine Copper	Cwts.	96,039	134,055	100,196	129,272	156,863
	£	447,944	637,791	433,795	584,509	627,384
Copper Ore	Tons	5,343	4,545	16,176	16,824	11,430
	£	83,262	38,125	184,677	225,683	113,409
Lead	Cwts.	271	63	82	1,351	3,391
	£	525	121	133	2,991	5,464
Lead Ore	Tons	450	567	86	648	212
	£	9,007	13,107	1,507	11,318	3,353
Regulus	Tons	39	52	—	—	25
	£	1,655	2,480	—	—	560
Total value		542,393	691,624	620,112	824,501	750,170

The produce of the mines of South Australia exported during the past ten years has reached in the aggregate the sum of over five and a half millions sterling. In the first half of the decade the shipments were of the value of 2,230,628*l.*, or averaging 446,126*l.* yearly; during the second half they amounted to 3,428,800*l.*, or an average shipment of 685,760*l.* annually. In 1858, this trade amounted to 373,282*l.*; in 1862, to 547,619*l.*; and 1867, to the sum of 750,170*l.* sterling.

More correct views of the extension of mining industry will be arrived at from a comparison of the *quantities* of produce raised and shipped, as the fluctuations in the value of minerals have been so great and frequent. The subjoined statement affords material for such a comparison, over a period of ten years:—

Period.	Copper.	Lead.	Copper Ore.	Lead Ore.	Regulus.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1858	47,796	—	6,697	853	154
„ 1862	85,872	426	6,216	97	418
„ 1867	156,863	3,391	11,430	212	25
Total in five years, 1858–62	316,889	4,767	35,133	1,295	1,441
„ 1863–67	616,425	5,158	54,318	1,964	116
Average of five years, 1858–62	63,378	953	7,026	259	288
„ 1863–67	123,285	1,031	10,863	392	23

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Reference to the above figures shows the export of fine copper during the last ten years has increased from 47,796 cwts. to 156,863 cwts. yearly, or three-fold; of copper ore, from 6,697 tons to 11,430 tons, or nearly double. During the five years ending 1862, 316,889 cwts. of fine copper, and 35,133 tons of ore were exported; whilst in the next five years, ending 1867, 616,425 cwts. of fine copper, and 54,318 tons of ore were sent away. It will be seen that, during the latter period, the average yearly exports of fine copper increased one hundred per cent., and of ore over fifty. Smelting operations on so large a scale necessitate the employment of a large fleet of vessels in carrying coals, 76,711 tons of which were imported during the twelve months.

Shipping.

Although a large increase appears in the number of vessels employed during 1867, owing to the increased export trade in breadstuffs, the total tonnage of the vessels entered inwards was slightly below that of the previous year—the imports from Great Britain, which arrive in the larger sized ships, having fallen off considerably, and Government immigration being suspended.

In 1867, 555 vessels of 167,547 tons entered at ports in South Australia, showing an increase of 31 vessels, but a decrease of 1,892 tonnage. From Great Britain 40 ships of 25,448 tons arrived, in lieu of 59 vessels of 40,379 tons, or 19 ships and 14,931 tons less. On the other hand, the arrivals from Victoria increased from 171 of 40,969 tons to 223 vessels of 56,457 tons, several of these being taken up for the wheat trade with Great Britain. In other respects there was but little variation from the previous year's returns. The following statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards from each country during the past three years:—

Ships Inwards.			Countries.	Tonnage.		
1865.	1866.	1867.		1865.	1866.	1867.
69	59	40	Great Britain	42,074	40,379	25,448
230	171	223	Victoria	58,199	40,969	56,457
152	178	167	New South Wales	43,022	58,796	53,337
73	46	37	Tasmania	8,690	5,692	4,682
3	5	10	Queensland	356	1,762	1,967
29	20	22	Western Australia	8,940	6,726	7,081
12	8	11	New Zealand	2,515	1,620	1,753
4	3	2	Cape of Good Hope	1,837	794	489
3	1	—	India and Singapore	718	793	—
17	15	17	Mauritius	3,746	3,381	4,567
—	—	1	Bourbon	—	—	283
—	—	5	Norway	—	—	2,759
3	1	—	Vancouver Island	1,276	327	—
8	5	9	Sweden	4,257	2,816	4,431
1	2	2	Hamburg	160	518	842
11	7	4	United States	6,484	4,173	2,305
1	—	1	Batavia	289	—	280
3	3	4	China	539	693	866
619	524	555	Total inwards	183,102	169,439	167,547

Forty-one of the above vessels arrived in ballast, mostly under charter to load wheat. The total number of the crews amounted to 7,587, or 294 less than last year. The number of vessels entered at ports in the River Murray additional to the above, was 65 of 5,954 tons, and with crews numbering 321 men. During the previous season the number of vessels entered while in the Murray trade was 51 of 3,985 tons.

From the cause previously stated the departures, especially to Great Britain, were largely augmented. In 1866, 515 ships of 170,432 tons, whilst in 1867, 581 vessels of 176,272 tons left the province, showing an increase of 66 vessels and 5,840 tons; 73 ships of 44,547 tonnage sailed for Great Britain, as compared with 30 vessels of 22,097 tons in 1866, an increase of 43 vessels and 22,450 tons.

The subjoined return shows the number of vessels entered outwards and departing to each country during the past three years.

Ships Outward.			Countries.	Tonnage.		
1865.	1866.	1867.		1865.	1866.	1867.
34	30	73	Great Britain - - - -	17,867	22,097	44,547
248	215	204	Victoria - - - - -	62,402	50,184	46,924
136	133	150	New South Wales - - -	39,092	49,655	46,654
37	13	15	Tasmania - - - -	4,629	1,365	2,017
36	28	43	New Zealand - - - -	7,706	6,211	8,026
22	22	34	Queensland - - - -	3,751	5,264	7,819
27	25	22	Western Australia - - -	8,469	8,464	7,628
6	6	9	Mauritius - - - -	1,517	1,495	2,178
—	—	1	Singapore - - - -	—	—	216
23	12	3	India - - - - -	12,692	8,554	1,682
2	1	14	Cape of Good Hope - - -	237	183	3,692
4	1	2	Batavia - - - - -	2,104	575	459
—	—	4	Rio Janeiro - - - -	—	—	1,194
12	15	5	Chili - - - - -	5,437	9,808	2,784
—	1	—	United States - - - -	—	281	—
2	2	2	China - - - - -	1,389	1,296	452
12	11	—	Guam - - - - -	6,896	5,000	—
601	515	581	Total outwards - -	174,188	170,432	176,272

The average tonnage of vessels leaving for England in 1865 was 525 tons; in 1866, 736 tons, and in 1867, 610 tons burthen. The number of vessels registered as belonging to Port Adelaide is 123 of 15,229 register tonnage.

Land, Cultivation, and Live Stock.

The subjoined extracts from my ninth annual report on the Agricultural Statistics, published early in the year, afford all the information upon this subject available up to the present date.

"The total area of land alienated from the Crown amounted, on 31st December last, to 3,568,742 acres—144,021 acres having been added during the past year, or 70,410 less than in 1866, and showing the quantity of *freehold* land occupied either by the proprietors or by their tenants to amount to 20·7 acres for each individual of the population. The proportion in 1858 was 18·8 acres, in 1862 it was 18·2 acres, showing an increase during the past five years of 2·5 acres each, although during the preceding quinquennial period it had slightly decreased. In 1856 the proportion was 15·1 acres per head. Nearly two thirds of the purchased land is in the occupation of the holders of the fee simple.

"In no other Australian Colony has so high a rate per head been attained, and the figures herein-after quoted will show that the facilities for procuring land for *bonâ fide* occupation and improvement have been far greater in South Australia than in either Victoria, New South Wales, or Queensland, when judged by actual results.

"From data compiled last season of the number, extent, and average area of the several holdings, it appeared that the largest class of occupiers were those farming from 100 to 200 acres—their number being 2,713 or 25·4 per cent. of the whole body, and their holdings averaging 144·6 acres. Next in number were the farmers of from 50 to 100 acres, of whom there were 2,214, with holdings averaging 76·4 acres each, and forming 20·7 per cent. of the gross number. Farms of from 200 to 350 acres were held by 1,715 persons, or 16 per cent. of the total occupiers, the average extent of each holding being 259·4 acres.

"The following table gives also the particulars as to the higher and lower classes not above mentioned, by which it will be seen that the holdings of the agriculturists average 137 acres. In Victoria the farming class hold an average area of 104 acres, or about

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one fourth less than here, and this quantity is stated to be the largest average during the past ten years.

Class.	No. of Holdings.	Extent.	Average Area.
More than 5 and under 15 acres -	992	8,408	8·5
„ 15 „ 30 „ -	609	12,577	20·6
„ 30 „ 50 „ -	655	25,031	38·2
„ 50 „ 100 „ -	2,214	169,110	76·4
„ 100 „ 200 „ -	2,713	392,492	144·6
„ 200 „ 350 „ -	1,715	445,017	259·4
„ 350 „ 500 „ -	601	248,116	412·8
Total 5 to 500 acres -	9,499	1,300,751	137·0

"Holdings exceeding 500 acres are excluded from the above table.

"The enclosed land amounts to 4,712,276 acres, or 173,187 acres more than in the preceding year. This represents one-third more than the total purchased land, large areas held under lease from the Crown being fenced for sheep. Deducting the extent of cultivated land from that enclosed, shows 3,901,542 acres of fenced depasturage, or 102,167 acres more than given in the last returns.

"Cultivation progressed during 1867–8 to the extent of ten per cent., being two per cent. below the increase recorded during the preceding season, the additional area being 71,020 and 79,145 acres respectively. The total area of cultivated land is 810,734 acres as compared with 739,714 acres in 1866–7.

"23 per cent., or more than one out of every five acres of purchased land, is under tillage. Last season there were cultivated 4·37 acres per head of the population, or 13 acres for each male of 14 years of age and upwards, being one acre per head more than in 1865–6. In the season just closed, these figures had risen to $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres for each individual, or 14 acres for each male of 14 years and upwards.

"In Victoria there is but nine-tenths of an acre of cultivated land for each inhabitant, in New South Wales but one acre, and in Queensland only one quarter of an acre. The following table shows the progress according to latest returns made by adjoining Colonies in this respect during the last 10 years:—

Colony.	Year.	Population.	Cultivated Land.	Acres per Head.
			Acres.	
South Australia - -	1858	118,340	264,462	2·23
	1862	135,329	494,511	3·65
	1867	172,860	810,734	4·69
Victoria - - -	1858	504,519	237,728	0·47
	1862	555,744	439,895	0·79
	1867	643,912	592,915	0·92
New South Wales - -	1858	342,062	223,295	0·65
	1862	367,495	302,138	0·82
	1867	431,412	451,225	1·04

"The area under wheat was unusually great, being 20 per cent more than in the previous year, when there appeared an increase of $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over its predecessor. The total acreage sown with this cereal amounted to 550,456, as compared with 457,628 acres in 1866–7, or an addition of 92,828 acres. In two seasons the cultivation of wheat has increased one third. In 1865–6 we grew $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, in 1866–7, $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres, and last season $3\frac{1}{5}$ acres for each individual of the population.

"68 out of every 100 acres cultivated were under wheat; a still larger proportion even than has obtained hitherto.

"Many thousand acres of crop of splendid growth, so far as the straw was concerned, were found not to be worth reaping, the ears being empty or containing but a few shrivelled grains and dust. It was therefore necessary on this occasion to ascertain the area reaped, as well as the area sown, otherwise the average yield of the whole harvest might be seriously understated. Out of 550,456 acres sown, 494,740 acres only were harvested, showing 55,716 acres, or one-tenth of the crop, to have been unfit for reaping. As many crops were reaped which yielded less than two bushels to the acre, it is apparent that only those perfectly worthless were left.

"The total produce reaped was only 2,579,894 bushels, as against 6,561,451 bushels last season, showing 3,981,557 bushels deficiency. The average yield for the whole Province, upon the total area sown, was only 4 bushels 40lbs. to the acre, or 9 bushels 40lbs. less than the preceding season. Upon the *reaped* acreage the average production was 5 bushels 12lbs. A comparison of the yield in each district for the two years will afford but too ample evidence of the disastrous effect of the red rust in various localities. So poor a yield has, of course, never before been recorded. The seasons 1865–6 and 1859–60—both years of drought—produced 8 bushels 44lbs. and 9 bushels 38lbs. respectively. The following table gives the total area of land under cultivation, the acreage under wheat, the gross produce of the harvest, and the average yield per acre for each of the past 10 seasons :—

Season.	Acres Cultivated.	Acres under Wheat.	Produce, Wheat.	Average per Acre.
			Bushels.	Bush. lbs.
1858–9	264,462	188,703	2,109,544	11 11
1859–60	361,884	218,216	2,103,411	9 38
1860–1	428,816	273,672	3,576,593	13 4
1861–2	486,667	310,636	3,410,756	10 59
1862–3	494,511	320,160	3,841,824	12 0
1863–4	555,968	335,758	4,691,919	14 0
1864–5	587,775	390,836	4,252,949	11 0
1865–6	660,569	410,608	3,587,800	8 44
1866–7	739,714	457,628	6,561,451	14 20
1867–8	810,734	550,456	2,579,894	4 40

"It appeared that out of 2,579,894 bushels, one-half, or 1,311,542 bushels, was good marketable grain; 854,252 bushels, or one-third, was of middling character; and the remainder, 414,000 bushels, was shrivelled inferior grain, only available, as then thought, for pig's food, but since considered fit for seed, and largely used for that purpose.

"Although the total quantity of hay grown was less than in 1866–7, the average yield was only 4 cwt. short of the production of that season, whilst it gave 5 cwt. more than in 1865–6. The healthy appearance of the wheat at the time of the hay harvest unfortunately, as it happened, induced some growers of hay to leave their crops for grain. The deficiency in the quantity cut was 13,907 acres, being 97,432 acres against 111,339 acres. The total produce was 109,135 tons, as against 147,159 tons, and the average yield was 22 cwt., as compared with 26 cwt. to the acre in the preceding season.

"More land was sown with barley and oats; of the former 13,816 acres, as compared with 11,723 acres, or an increase of 2,093 acres; of the latter 4,846 acres were grown, or an addition of 937 acres. The yield of both cereals was, however, deficient, being six bushels per acre less than in 1866–7. The average of the barley crop was 13 bushels 49 lbs., and of oats 16 bushels 7 lbs.; the yield in the previous season having been 20 bushels 6 lbs. and 22 bushels 12 lbs. respectively. The total quantity of barley reaped was 193,341 bushels, and of oats 78,554 bushels, contrasted with 235,941 bushels of the former and 87,143 bushels of the latter at the preceding harvest.

"Nearly twice the quantity of peas were sown—3,499 acres against 1,853 acres; the produce amounting to 36,381 bushels. This is the first occasion of recording the yield of this description of crop, which amounted to 10 bushels 23 lbs. to the acre.

"Potatoes show an increase in both area grown and the quantity raised, the average yield being the same as last season, 48 cwt. to the acre. 2,701 acres produced 6,538 tons, against 2,526 acres and 6,045 tons, showing an increase of 175 acres planted and 493 tons of produce.

"In view of the vastly increased area sown with wheat, the falling off in the breadth of fallow land, viz., 10,820 acres, is less than could be expected; 119,481 acres being fallowed, as against 130,301 acres in the year preceding. The prospect at seedtime was such as to induce the farmer to crop every acre he had ploughed.

"There is an increase of 652 acres in orchards and gardens. Of the former there are 2,563 acres, and 3,912 acres of the latter, or together 6,475 acres.

"Vineyards, on the other hand, show a slight decrease on the previous season of 152 acres. The total area is now 6,209 acres, with 5,869,406 vines in bearing and 1,022,740 vines yet unproductive. The aggregate quantity of wine made is returned as 863,584 gallons, or 128,601 gallons more than at the previous vintage. The production of the past three vintages has averaged 816,000 gallons, or nearly five gallons per head of the population. The shipments of wine only amounted to 8,924 gallons, valued at 1,901*l.* In 1862 we sent away 20,574 gallons, worth 6,777*l.* This trade has declined year by

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year since the imposition in Victoria of the present prohibitive duty. According to the latest available returns the produce of an acre of vines in New South Wales is 106 gallons, and in Victoria 70 gallons of wine. The South Australian vintage referred to herein produced 140 gallons to the acre.

"The Live Stock Returns are of a more satisfactory character than have been presented for several years. They show a large increase in the number of sheep (over half a million), and that the diminution in the number of horned cattle, so rapid of late, has at last reached its limit, being merely nominal.

"In the whole Colony, 4,477,445 sheep were depastured, as against 3,911,610 in 1866-7, showing an increase of 565,835. Nearly three-fourths (3,026,866) of the whole number were returned as depasturing within the boundaries of the counties, only 1,450,579 being found in the outside districts. During the past five years the flocks of the Colony have increased 30 per cent.

"The total number of horned cattle was 122,200, as compared with 123,820 last year, showing a slight diminution of 1,620 only, as compared with a decrease of 34,237 in the preceding year. Since 1863 the number of cattle has decreased one-half.

"Horses have increased in number from 70,829 to 74,228, or by 3,399. The addition to our horse stock since 1863 is about one-third in number. The increase in the number of pigs amounts to 50 per cent., being 89,304, as against 59,962 in the previous returns. Poultry of all kinds is more numerous, the number returned being 411,314, in place of 341,485. More attention is being paid to dairy produce for supply of the home market, and for exportation."

Railways.

Large increases appear in the traffic returns of the railways, both as regards passengers and goods. The total number of passengers conveyed was 444,089, as compared with 405,502 in 1866, or an increase of 38,587. The receipts, however, were less, amounting to 34,114*l.*, as against 36,183. A larger quantity of goods was carried than in any previous year, the total quantity amounting to 266,705 tons, as compared with 208,984 tons, or an addition of 57,721 tons, yielding a revenue of 88,577*l.* from this source, as against 75,247*l.* in 1866, or 13,330*l.* additional. The following return shows the gross receipts and expenditure, and a detailed statement of traffic for the past three years:—

GROSS RECEIPTS.

	1865.	1866.	1867.	1865.	1866.	1867.
				£	£	£
Number of passengers	402,550	405,502	444,089	—	—	—
Passenger receipts	—	—	—	37,016	36,183	34,114
Tons of goods	261,183	208,984	266,705	—	—	—
Goods receipts	—	—	—	93,574	75,247	88,577
Other receipts	—	—	—	2,690	2,701	2,892
Total receipts	—	—	—	133,280	114,131	125,583

GROSS EXPENDITURE.

	1865.	1866.	1867.
	£	£	£
Management	1,375	1,735	2,050
Locomotive department	18,824	16,150	19,542
Maintenance of line	22,334	24,161	31,118
Other working expenses (including goods agency)	71,936	61,923	66,615
Total expenditure	114,469	103,979	119,325

The total receipts amounted to 125,583*l.*, as against 114,131*l.* last year, and the expenditure to 119,325*l.*, as against 103,979*l.* The increased expenditure is chiefly in the item maintenance of lines, which amounted to 31,118*l.*, as compared with 24,161*l.* In the other branches of expenditure the additional cost is not out of proportion to the increased traffic. The number of train miles run was 164,479, as compared with 128,957 miles in 1866, showing an increase of 35,522 miles, owing chiefly to more frequent trains being run on the Port line, but partly to considerable excursion traffic during one portion of the year.

Main Roads.

During 1867 the Central Board of Main Roads constructed 79 miles of macadamized road, making the total length of main lines completed at the end of the year to be 496 miles, of which 376 have been made during the past 10 years; in the preceding year 67 miles were constructed, or 12 less. The cost in 1867 was 175,773*l.*, and 169,201*l.* the previous year. During the 10 years the Board expended 938,941*l.* upon construction of new works and maintenance of existing lines.

In addition to this the local road boards, municipalities, and district councils have expended out of rates, supplemented by grants from the Treasury, large sums in the improvement of internal communication, the two latter bodies expending 90,880*l.*, as compared with 70,886*l.* in the year preceding.

Postal Communication.

Very considerable extension in the postal service was effected upon entering into new contracts in 1867, and, although adding much to its cost, rendered facilities to distant and sparsely-peopled localities hitherto denied them.

The number of miles travelled by the mails increased more than one-fourth, or from 809,160 to 1,075,538 miles; the number of post-offices from 226 to 248; and the number of employés from 299 to 333.

Subjoined is a statement of the number of letters and newspapers carried, and of the income and expenditure of the department:

——	1865.	1866.	1867.
Number of letters - -	2,444,207	2,703,105	2,804,418
Number of newspapers - -	1,760,415	1,968,120	1,924,760
Distance travelled by mails -	790,155	809,160	1,075,538
	£	£	£
Income - - - -	25,023	27,987	28,495
Expenditure - - -	23,417	27,062	37,753

It will be seen that the revenue has increased from 27,987*l.* to 28,495*l.*, whilst the expenditure is now 37,753*l.*, as against 27,062*l.* In 1866 the service was self-supporting; whereas now it is carried on at a cost to the State of 9,258*l.* over receipts. The whole of this additional expense is not to be debited to the extension of postal business, but in large degree to the increased rates at which the new mail contracts were taken.

Telegraphs.

At the close of 1867 there were 64 telegraph stations open in South Australia, 1,113 miles of line, and 1,642 miles of wire erected, six additional stations having been opened, and 77 miles of wire erected during the year. The number of messages transmitted was 122,138, as compared with 121,153 in 1866; the receipts amounted to 12,673*l.*, as against 12,413*l.* There was an increased income from the Port, South-eastern, and Intercolonial divisions; the only line showing a decrease, which, moreover, was very slight, was that traversing the northern districts.

Nearly every centre of population is now connected with the capital, and with the net-work of telegraphs existing throughout the adjoining Colonies; and the organization of the department is brought into effect in amalgamation with the post office, money order system, and savings bank in all the principal townships.

Conclusion.

The general statistical table, illustrative of the progress of South Australia from its formation as a Colony up to the present time, will be found at the close of the volume. Reference thereto will show that the year under review has not been deficient in those elements of progress which assure a steady advance in the development of our resources.

I have, &c.

J. BOOTHBY,

Under Secretary and Government Statist.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMPTON to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 56.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Perth, March 25, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1867, accompanied by an explanatory letter from the Colonial Secretary, and containing highly interesting information with reference to the continued prosperity of the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. HAMPTON,

Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,

&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, March 23, 1868.

IN forwarding for transmission to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies the Blue Book for 1867, I am glad to be able to report that the financial condition of the Colony is in a satisfactory state, and that every interest is if slowly yet steadily progessing.

2. *Review since* 1862.

The usual term of a Governor's stay in a Colony having passed since your Excellency assumed office here, and as it is possible the present Blue Book may be the last I shall send in to you, it may not be unprofitable, and it will assuredly be interesting, if before I enter into details of the past year, I take a short review of the progress of the Colony since February 1862, the date of your arrival. At that time exploration had not resulted in bringing into occupation for squatting purposes land more distant than that on the Murchison to the north or Cape Riche to the eastward. There was much dissatisfaction felt at the mode in which convict labour was employed, and at the way in which money had been expended on public works; the finances of the Colony were not in a flourishing condition, and the necessity for sweeping changes in the land regulations was loudly advocated. It is not too much to state that the measures adopted during your Excellency's term of government have to a great extent met the various evils then complained of.

Land is now usefully occupied to the northward as far as the De Grey river, and at Espérance Bay to the eastward. Convict labour has been fairly distributed for the purpose of making roads and bridges in the Colony, and there are few districts the rivers and brooks in which are not crossed with substantial bridges, and where travelling is not comparatively easy at all seasons of the year. The money expended on public works, aided by convict labour, has gone far further than it would otherwise have done, and the means of communication throughout the out districts of Western Australia are, I apprehend, *at present*, equal to those of the other Australian Colonies of far longer standing.

The amended Land Regulations of 1864 and 1865 are working satisfactorily, and the extent of land now under lease is very large. The finance of the Colony is in a sound condition, and there is a balance of some 16,000*l.* in the Colonial Treasury, and no outstanding debt of any kind to be met.

3. *Comparison of Revenue, &c.*

The following comparison of the revenue, &c. for the years 1861–1864 and 1867, will show the gradual progress of the Colony in some few important matters, and may

be taken as a fair example of all interests; the rate of increase in the intervening years has been at much the same ratio.

	1861.	1864.	1867.
	£	£	£
Revenue	67,261	71,910	90,431
Expenditure	81,087	70,714	89,502
Imports	147,912	168,707	204,613
Exports	97,589	111,000	174,080
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Tonnage (entered)	57,456	45,972	50,242
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Acreage (under crop)	27,018	35,804	45,509
Do. (under lease)	6,657,105	10,191,308	17,698,403
	£	£	£
Expenditure on Public Works	26,793	8,639	13,506
	A very exceptional year.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Land sold	13,153	6,406	13,937
	No.	No.	No.
Horses	10,720	15,449	17,297
Cattle	33,795	44,569	45,962
Sheep	279,576	383,878	537,597
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Wool (exported)	723,965	550,598	1,312,016
	£	£	£
Timber (value)	27,445	30,028	22,983
Ore (do.)	7,130	18,000	15,879

4. A perusal of the foregoing figures cannot but be satisfactory, the few cases in which a decrease occurs can easily be accounted for. That in the tonnage is consequent on the class of steamers now calling at King George's Sound being of far less burden than was used in 1861 and previous to that time.

The expenditure on public works in 1861 was far in excess of that in any previous year; the expenditure in that year was 14,000*l.* in excess of the revenue, and there were heavy amounts for public works to be met from the revenue of 1862. The timber in the above figures includes sandal wood. The export of mahogany or Jarrah timber has decreased of late, but a demand for this valuable wood is again springing up. The export of ore fluctuates greatly, and will do so, till the mines, of the richness of which there is no doubt, are properly worked by persons of large capital, and whose interests are not purely colonial.

5. *Revenue and Expenditure*, 1867.

The actual revenue for the year 1867 has exceeded that estimated by 8,386*l.*, and is in excess of that received in 1866 by 1,049*l.* 4,000*l.* of the excess for the year was from customs; 1,500*l.* from sales of land; and 2,500*l.* from land under lease.

The expenditure for the year exceeded the estimate by 7,457*l.*, and that of 1866 by 4,850*l.*, and the excess was incurred as follows: Preparations for His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, 2,000*l.*; expenses connected with the North District, 1,600*l.*; and remittances to the Crown agents of 5,000*l.*, yet in hand and intended to be applied to the purchase of a steam dredge for work on the Swan and Canning rivers.

6. *Imperial Expenditure.*

The expenditure from Imperial funds has been during the past year fully equal to that in former years; it cannot be expected this will be maintained for with no fresh influx of convicts or pensioners, and with a daily diminution of existing numbers, there must be a falling off in the amount. The time is close at hand for the gradual winding up of the Convict Department, and much as may be said in favour of Western Australia ceasing to be a receptacle for convicts, there will be very much to regret in the want of labour for public purposes and also the want of sale for produce at paying prices, which has hitherto been the rule. There may be, and probably will be, many fresh sources of emolument offering to the settler, but he will find few where the return is so certain as that received from the Commissariat chest.

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7. *Public Works.*

The sum of 13,506*l.* expended in public works over a widely extended Colony does not seem to be very large, but this sum, coupled with the convict labour that has been employed, will show a very large amount of work for that money. The convicts have principally been employed in opening up new lines of road and constructing bridges over rivers, and thus connecting parts of the Colony that would during the winter season be isolated from each other, and in keeping in repair lines of road already in use. The only new public work of great importance commenced during 1867 has been the construction of a large town hall and market place in Perth, the want of which has long been felt.

8. *Population.*

The increase of population during 1867 has been small, indeed, little in excess of the numbers of convicts and pensioners who have been sent from England; there is still a desire on the part of free immigrants to emigrate to the Eastern Colonies under an impression that they will better their position, an impression generally found to be most erroneous. Now that the importation of convicts has ceased, the question of a regular supply of labour is one of the utmost importance, and regarding which much of the future prosperity of the Colony depends. There is an ample field for good farming men of steady habits; the number of working men in the Colony, who without great abilities or advantages have made themselves independent, ought to act as a spur to induce others to follow their example, the result of which is no chimera but a certainty. There is a large demand for female servants of respectable character, who soon become absorbed into the general population by marriage. The proportion of males to females is at present nearly two to one.

9. *Savings Bank.*

I am glad to be able to continue a favourable report of the Post Office Savings Banks, the depositors in which have increased during 1867 from 1,304 to 1,567.

These banks are really doing much good among the special class for which they are intended, and the cost of management and interest was, during the past year, more than repaid by the investment on mortgage of a portion of the sums deposited in them.

10. *Pauperism.*

Notwithstanding the benefit of the savings banks there is still an increase of pauperism throughout the Colony, and I fear the peculiar features of the majority of the population preclude the hope of any decrease in the large item of expenditure under this head. What with old pensioners leaving young wives and families without provision, ticket of leave holders re-convicted, leaving those dependent on them chargeable to public funds, and the undoubted fact of the worn out constitutions of many expirees and conditional pardon holders who become a burden on colonial and not on convict funds, there is I fear little hope of an immediate reduction of this item of expenditure.

11. *Education.*

The number of scholars in the schools supported or assisted by public funds has increased from 1,305 in 1866 to 1,374 in 1867. There are altogether 43 schools working under the supervision of the Education Board, an increase of two over the number in 1866. Each year shows a gradual increase in the number of schools and scholars. The cost for each scholar inclusive of all expenses is high, amounting nearly to fifty shillings annually. This may principally be accounted for by the scattered nature of the population, and the large number of small schools necessary to be maintained. These schools are worked on a system somewhat similar to that known as the Irish Educational System, and separate grants to each religious denomination are thus avoided. The Roman Catholics are very averse to the system, and where practicable preclude children of their faith from attending. Wherever they can muster a sufficient number of children to institute a school, they do so, and therefore the number of scholars attending the Government schools must not in any way be taken as a criterion of the number receiving education.

12. *Imports and Exports*, 1867.

In my last year's Report I stated that the very large increase in the imports must not be looked on as permanent, and the amount has this year been reduced from 251,907*l.* to 204,612*l.*, but as this latter amount is by more than 20,000*l.* in excess of any previous year except 1866, it may be looked on as satisfactory, more especially as it is known large orders have been sent for goods.

The exports are in excess of those of 1866 by 24,000*l.*, and may be expected to increase during the current year.

There is every prospect of a considerable export of wheat and timber, and it is hoped it will not be long before the mines are again in full work.

13. *Cultivation.*

I am glad to be able to draw attention to a considerable increase during the past year of land under cultivation and lease; the land sales have also realised a larger sum, and are now on the increase.

Stock of all description is flourishing, and but for a temporary depression in the price of wool, the farmer and grazier would have nothing on which to found a reasonable complaint.

14. *North District.*

The want of rain in the North District has somewhat stopped the influx of stock and settlers from hence, and from the Eastern Colonies. Late accounts from Roebourne speak of heavy showers, and the opinions of those in the districts whose experience may be relied on are in no way discouraged. The want of communication between Perth and the North District is the great drawback; several endeavours have been made to get steamers to ply along the coast, for which there is now an ample field, but as yet without success. The time cannot be far distant when this will be too apparent a necessity to be longer postponed.

15. *Crime.*

The returns of crime during the past year call for little remark. There is a slight decrease in the number of summary convictions, few of which are for crimes other than of a trifling nature. Though a convict Colony, life and property are as secure as in any portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

I will only in conclusion remark, that the present state of the Colony, coupled with the slow but steady progress it has made during the past six years of your Excellency's administration, cannot but be satisfactory to you.

Great changes are now coming, how far those changes will affect the prosperity of the Colony it would be idle for me to surmise. There are very many elements of prosperity that properly fostered may result in great good to Western Australia, but there are at the same time many elements of a different nature, which, unless averted by careful management and good government, will do much to retard the progress of the Colony, and prevent her ever rivalling the prosperity of her eastern neighbours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 19.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 19.

CENSUS RESULTS and GENERAL STATISTICS of NEW ZEALAND for 1867.

REPORT to the Honourable Edward William Stafford, Colonial Secretary, &c.

Registrar-General's Office,
Wellington, February 25, 1869.

SIR,

Previous publication of portions of contents of this volume, viz.:—Abstract of census. Results;

Before entering upon the matters to which this report is to be devoted, it appears proper to premise that the statistical volume, which I have now the honour to present, is, to a considerable extent, substantially a re-issue of information previously published. On the 9th of July in last year, a parliamentary paper, under the title of "Abstracts of "certain Principal Results of a Census of New Zealand, taken in December, 1867," was published and presented to both Houses of the General Assembly. These abstracts included a number of particulars respecting the population, cultivations and crops, and the live stock in the Colony, shown both for each Province and for each electoral district; with comparative tables exhibiting the progress ascertained by the successive censuses of 1858, 1861, 1864, and 1867. The figures for 1867 were indeed stated to be at that time subject to revision (and considerable labour has since been expended in the endeavour to make them as accurate as possible); but, as I then anticipated, the alterations made in consequence of that revision are for the most part of very little practical importance, deriving their value chiefly from their affording, in some instances, a closer approximation to that accuracy in every detail of statistical compilation, which it is so obviously desirable to secure . . . . . On the 2nd of September a series of "Statistical Tables in anticipation of the Annual Volume for 1867" was presented to the General Assemby. This included immigration and emigration; births, deaths, and marriages; trade and interchange (shipping, imports and exports, summarized and in detail); the whole of the statistics relating to revenue and finance; the whole of the postal statistics, and other matters. Indeed, the extent to which this volume was anticipated by that series is shown by the fact that it contained fifty of the tables (No. I. to No. L.) in the second part,—which, as they now appear again, are not even a reprint, but, as stated above, simply a re-issue of the same tables . . . . Other branches of the census results (the compilation of some of which is everywhere found laborious and often tedious), and the portions of the general statistics after No. 50 in Part II., remained to be prepared. But most of these were ready within a few weeks after the presentation of the series above referred to; and there is no doubt that the complete volume would have been in circulation some months since had not the pressure of work entailed by the Parliamentary session on the Government printing office caused a lengthened and entire cessation of the printing of the statistics. Recently this work has been resumed, and carried on with a rapidity which has, in some measure, made up for previous delays.

Tables of general statistics.

I have submitted this statement with a twofold object:—1. To explain to many into whose hands this volume will come how it is that they will find in it numerous tables precisely the same as tables in their possession long since; and, 2, to suggest for the consideration of any critics, who may be inclined to characterize the volume as a publication of "antediluvian statistics,"—because while it relates to 1867 it is only published in 1869,—the fact that a large portion of the most important information contained in it is not now published for the first time,—various particulars of the census results as given in the "Abstracts" above referred to having been, several months ago, published in leading journals in the United Kingdom, to the editors of which the parliamentary paper was transmitted.

Division of volume into two parts.

With a view to facility of reference and general convenience of arrangement, the tables have (as in the volume for 1864) been classified in two divisions, part I. being devoted to the census exclusively, and part II. containing the general statistics for the year. A separate list of "contents" is given for each of these "parts."

Part I.—Census.

New Zealand.

The triennial census enumeration was taken for the night of the 19th December, 1867, on a plan substantially the same as that adopted in December 1861, and December 1864, by which the information was obtained not only for each province of the Colony, but also for each of the electoral districts returning members to the General Assembly. The compilations have been made in accordance with this arrangement, separate tables having been constructed for the provinces and the electoral districts respectively upon all the branches of information with regard to which such details seemed necessary. The exact territory comprised within each of the electoral districts named in the tables will be found described in the appendix to this part of the volume, according to the definitions given in the several representation Acts by which they were respectively constituted. These descriptions follow consecutively in the order in which the districts are arranged in the tables, being the order of the provinces from Auckland (North) to Southland. It is to be borne in mind, however, that as "The County of Westland, Act, 1867," had not yet been brought into force when the census was taken, the territory included in that county was, as before, included in the province of Canterbury. But the particulars of information relating to the county are easily ascertainable from the tables for the electoral districts, the census results for that territory being comprehended in the figures for the two electoral districts of Westland South and Westland Boroughs.

Appendix A.

I now proceed, as on former occasions, to give, in a condensed form, the leading points of the information embodied in the following tables, referring those who desire to enter into minuter details to the tables themselves. Notes in the margin will direct to the several tables in which such details are to be found.

Object of this report.

Population.

The population of New Zealand (exclusive of aboriginal natives, and of the military and their families), was, as shown by the census returns for December 1867, 218,668, of whom 131,929 were males and 86,739 females. The distribution of this population through the several provinces was as follows, viz., Auckland, 48,321; Taranaki, 4,359; Wellington, 21,950; Hawke's Bay, 5,283; Nelson, 23,814; Marlborough, 4,371; Canterbury (including the county of Westland), 53,866; or, if the population returned for that county (15,418) be deducted, 38,448; Otago, 48,577; and Southland, 7,943; to which is to be added 184, the population of the Chatham Islands, to make up the general total stated above. Thus it will be seen that the Northern Island (comprising the Provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawkes Bay) contained 79,913, or 36·58 per cent.; and the Middle Island (comprising the Provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland) 138,571, or 63·42 per cent. of the whole population of the Colony. There can be no doubt, however, that the actual numbers exceeded the totals given for the Colony, as besides individual omissions through the negligence of sub-enumerators or from other causes, there are almost insuperable difficulties in obtaining a correct enumeration of the gold-digging population. Had such an enumeration been practicable, the total would almost certainly have been many hundreds, or even several thousands, more than it is.

Part I. Tables I., II., IV. Population of Colony (as shown by census). Of each province.

Of the Northern and Middle Islands.

Population probably greater than census numbers.

The ascertained numbers in 1867, as compared with the population shown by the census of 1864, exhibit an increase within the triennial period of 46,510, or 27·01 per cent. The average annual increase from 1864 to 1867 thus appears to have been nine per cent. The following summary shows the numerical increase or decrease in each of the provinces within that period, with the proportionate increase or decrease in 1867, calculated on the population of each province in 1864:—

Comparison with previous years.

Auckland,	Numerical	increase,	6,189, or 14·68	per cent.
Taranaki,	„	decrease,	15, or 0·34	„
Wellington,	„	increase,	6,963, or 46·46	„
Hawke's Bay,	„	„	1,513, or 40·13	„
Nelson,	„	„	11,904, or 99·94	„
Marlborough,	„	decrease,	1,148, or 20·80	„
Canterbury,	„	increase,	21,590, or 66·89	„
Otago,	„	decrease,	442, or 0·90	„
Southland,	„	„	142, or 1·76	„

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A comparative Table (No. II.) shows the population for the respective provinces in December 1858, December 1861, December 1864, and December 1867, with the numerical and centesimal increase or decrease in each of them during the respective triennial periods 1858–61, 1861–64, and 1864–67. A comparison of the numbers in 1858 with those in 1851, when a census of the Colony was taken, could not be exhibited with equal accuracy for the provinces, and is not included in the table; but it may be interesting to introduce here the evidence of the progress of population in the Colony, as a whole, since the first date (1851). In that year the total population numbered 26,707. In 1858 it had (according to the finally corrected figures) increased to 59,413, being an increase in seven years amounting to 32,706 persons, or 122·46 per cent. In 1861 the total was 99,021, being an increase, as compared with 1858, of 39,608, or 39·99 per cent. In 1864 the total was 172,158, being an increase, as compared with 1861, of 73,137, or 73·86 per cent. And in 1867, as has been shown, the total was 218,668, being an increase, as compared with 1864, of 46,510 persons, or 27·01 per cent. Comparing the two years—1851 and 1867—the aggregate increase during the period of 16 years amounted to 191,961 persons, or 718·77 per cent., being an *average* increase for each year included in the period amounting to 11,997 persons, or 44·92 per cent.

Progress of population 1851–67.

Electoral districts, Table IV.

The population of each electoral district of the Colony will be found in Table No. IV., which shows, in addition to the numbers, the sexes and the ages, and the numbers of each sex under and over 21 years of age.

Population of towns, Table III.

A separate table is devoted to the population of cities or towns in the Colony. It shows the numbers of the inhabitants in the chief town of each province in 1867 as compared with 1864, with the numerical and centesimal increase or decrease within that period; also the population, in 1867, of a number of other towns or townships in which a similar comparison cannot be carried out, their population not having been separately ascertained in 1864.

Aboriginal native population.

Although the numbers of the aboriginal native population are not ascertained by the census of the Colony, I am enabled, by returns supplied from the Native Secretary's Office, to give the estimate of them which will be found in Appendix B. and Appendix C. of this part. Indeed, as respects the provinces of Canterbury, Otago, and Southland, an enumeration which may be regarded as a census was made in the early part of 1868 by Alexander Mackay, Esq., Native Commissioner, the results of which will be found in Appendix C. They show for those three provinces a total of 1,433, of whom 798 were males (535 above 14 years of age, and 263 under 14), and 630 females (427 above, and 203 under 14); with five children, sex not stated. . . Appendix B. relates chiefly to the northern island, in which the bulk of the Maori population is found; including, however, those in the province of Nelson, and the prisoners who were then at the Chatham Islands. This does not profess to be any more than an estimate; and remarks appended to some of the figures point to the conclusion that the estimate is below what are (or at least then were) the true numbers. Taking the figures as they stand, they show 14,897 men, 12,353 women, and 9,857 children, making a total of 37,107. These, added to the numbers in Appendix C., represent the general (estimated) total of the aboriginal native population in the Colony as 38,540.

Appendix C.

Appendix B.

If it were possible to collect, with regard to the Maories, reliable information relating to various branches of census statistics, no doubt the results would have a high and peculiar interest. But the impracticability of accomplishing this at present is only too evident. It may not be out of place, however, to quote here a passage from a letter from Mr. A. Mackay which accompanied the "census" return for parts of the Middle Island above referred to. Although relating only to one point, and to a portion of the Colony in which the numbers of the Maories are comparatively small, it throws a gleam of light where unhappily there is much that is gloomy and discouraging. Referring to the natives at the whole of the places visited by him, Mr. Mackay says—

> "There is one marked improvement in their condition that I am happy to be able to report satisfactorily on; and that is the general sobriety of the whole population. The intemperance they were addicted to in former years, lamented over by former officers as demoralizing and diminishing their race, has almost entirely disappeared; and I am happy to say that drunkenness amongst them at the present time is quite as rare as sobriety in former years."

Relative Proportions of Sexes.

Proportions of the sexes in the Colony.

The number of males in New Zealand (exclusive of the aboriginal natives and the military and their families), according to the census returns for December 1867, was 131,929, or 60·33 per cent. of the whole population. The number of females was 86,739,

or 39·67 per cent. The following figures will show for each province separately the centesimal proportions of males and females respectively to the population of the province, and the centesimal excess of males in each province:— NEW ZEALAND.

	Males. per Cent.	Females. per Cent.	Centesimal Excess of Males.
Auckland - - -	56·01	43·99	12·02
Taranaki - - -	57·99	42·01	15·98
Wellington - - -	56·50	43·50	13·00
Hawke's Bay - - -	60·51	39·49	21·02
Nelson - - - -	68·97	31·03	37·94
Marlborough - - -	62·59	37·41	25·18
Canterbury - - -	61·41	38·59	22·82
Otago - - - -	61·29	38·71	22·58
Southland - - -	57·91	42·09	15·82
Average for the Colony - -	60·33	39·67	20·66

In each province.

The average proportions of the sexes in December 1864 was, males, 61·91; females, 38·09; excess of males, 23·82. In December 1861, they were,—males, 61·67; females, 38·33; excess of males, 23·34. This was a remarkable increase on the proportion of males as compared with 1858, when the proportions were,—males, 56·68; females; 43·32; excess of males, 13·36 per cent.; but it was to a considerable extent explained by the great influx of miners to the gold fields of the Colony, very many of whom were unmarried, or had left their wives and families in other countries. It is gratifying to observe that, notwithstanding the continuance of this element of disparity, yet the last returns show some tendency towards an equalization of the numbers of the sexes. Proportions in 1864, 1861, and 1858.

Civil or Conjugal Condition of the People.

The general totals for the Colony, as shown by the census of 1867, were as follow:— Married males, 34,291, being 15·68 per cent. on the whole population, and 25·99 per cent. on the total number of males; married females, 32,606, being 14·91 per cent. on the whole population, and 37·59 per cent. on the total number of females; unmarried males (including widowers and male children), 95,562, being 43·70 per cent. on the whole population, and 72·43 per cent. on the total number of males; unmarried females (including widows and female children), 53,177, being 24·31 per cent. on the whole population, and 61·30 per cent. on the total number of females. The numbers of widowers and widows included are, 2,380 widowers and 2,562 widows. There were 3,032 persons (viz., 2,076 males and 956 females) with regard to whom no information as to "condition" was obtained. Tables V., VII. Proportions of married and unmarried.

If we deduct from the totals of "unmarried" the persons under 15 years of age, the numbers remaining are, males, 55,217; females, 14,337. The proportions between the sexes from the age of 15 upwards is thus shown to be 79·39 per cent. of males, and 20·61 per cent. of females. Proportions aged 15 and upwards.

The information thus arrived at may be expressed otherwise as follows: Of every 100 of the total male population, 25·99 per cent. were *married*; and 41·86 aged 15 and upwards, with 30·58 under 15, were *unmarried* (there being 1·57 whose "condition" was not stated); and of every 100 of the total female population, 37·60 per cent. were *married*; and 16·53 aged 15 and upwards, with 44·17 under 15, were *unmarried* (there being 1·10 whose "condition" was not stated).

According to the census of 1864, a similar calculation exhibited the following results: Of every 100 of the total male population, 25·78 per cent. were married; and 44·95 aged 15 and upwards, with 27·97 under 15, were unmarried (there being 1·30 whose "condition" was not stated); and of every 100 of the total female population, 38·50 were married; and 17·43 aged 15 and upwards, with 43·55 under 15, were unmarried (there being 0·52 whose "condition" was not stated). Comparison with 1864.

Dwellings of the People.

The total number of houses or dwellings in the Colony in December 1867 was 54,015, against 37,996 in 1864, being an increase of 16,019 within the three years. It Tables V., VI., VII. Numbers of dwellings.

NEW ZEALAND.

is to be remarked, however, that the gross total for 1867 included 4,595 tents, against 6,742 in 1864; most of these in both years being, as might be supposed, in the gold fields districts. The tents may be regarded as included in the numbers of dwellings having "one or two rooms," which in 1867 amounted to a total of 26,558, against 18,841 in 1864; there being in 1867, as compared with 1864, 6,209 dwellings of three rooms, against 4,612; 7,844 of four rooms, against 5,352; 3,543 of five rooms, against 2,451; and 9,861 of six rooms and upwards, against 6,674 in 1864.

Numbers of rooms.

Materials.

With respect to the materials of which the houses were constructed, the returns show,—wood, 38,844, against 25,463 in 1864; stone or brick, 1,182, against 1,082 in 1864; and other materials (including raupo houses and the tents above referred to), 13,989, against 11,451 in 1864.

Details of the information thus summarized will be found for the several provinces in Tables V. and VI., and for the electoral districts in Table VII.

Proportion of population to each dwelling.

The proportion of the population to each dwelling, calculated on the census returns of the respective years, was 4·04 in 1867; 4·53 in 1864; 4·42 in 1861; and 4·63 in 1858.

The sub-enumerators were furnished with special forms for returns of uninhabited houses, and houses building, in their sub-districts. The results, as given in those forms, have been compiled, and are shown in Table VIII. for the provinces, and in Table IX. for the electoral districts. But some uncertainty attaches to the part of these results relating to uninhabited houses, it being evident that while, in several instances, they include stores, shops, offices, &c., which were occupied during the daytime (only), in many other instances there are no means of accurately ascertaining from them whether or not such buildings were counted as "uninhabited." The returns of "houses building" are more reliable. They show for the Colony a total of 702, of which 550 were to be of wood, 51 of stone or brick, and 101 of other materials.

Tables VIII., IX.

Uninhabited houses.

Houses building.

Electoral Franchise.

Table X.

The total male population shown in the tables for the electoral districts (which, it is to be borne in mind, do not include the numbers who were on shipboard on the census night, or the inhabitants of the Chatham Islands) is 129,761, of whom 80,122 were aged 21 years or upwards. The total number of electors on the rolls at the same date was 33,338—a number which does not include the electors for the electoral district of the Otago gold fields, the nature of whose qualification (as defined in "The Miners' Representation Act Amendment Act, 1863") does not admit of the formation of an electoral roll in the usual way. The total number of representatives for these constituencies in the general assembly was 72 (including the two members for the Otago gold fields, but, of course, not including the members for the four Maori electoral districts constituted by "The Maori Representation Act, 1867," by which the House of Representatives has been made to consist of 76 members altogether).

Number of electors.

Proportion of electors to male population.

The proportion of electors to every 100 of the total male population shown for the electoral districts in December 1867 was 25·69 per cent., against 19·71 per cent. in 1864, and 22·39 per cent. in 1861; and the proportion to every 100 males aged 21 and upwards was in 1867, 41·60 per cent., against 31·43 in 1864, and 39·32 in 1861. Table X. contains calculations of the proportions for each electoral district; but although these calculations exhibit correct results as the electoral rolls actually stood at the time, the value of the detailed comparison between electoral franchise and population is necessarily qualified by the consideration that, in numerous instances, the electors are non-resident, many having votes in more than one district.

Places of Birth.

Tables XI., XII.

The places of birth of the population are shown, for the several provinces, numerically in Table XI., and centesimally in Table XII. The following were the proportions for the whole Colony:—England, 30·01 per cent.,; Ireland, 12·78; Scotland, 15·93; Wales, 0·60; New Zealand, 29·29; Australian Colonies, 5·17; other British dominions, 1·74; United States of America, 0·56; France, 0·25; Germany, 1·30; China, 0·56; other foreign countries, 1·12; at sea, 0·34; not specified, 0·35.

Subjoined is a compendious tabular view of the information on this subject derived from the census of 1867, compared with that supplied by the census of 1864:—

PLACES OF BIRTH.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1867.		Proportion per cent. of each Nationality to the respective Totals of Population.	
	1864.	1867.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1864.	1867.
England	58,444	65,614	7,170	12·27	33·95	30·01
Ireland	20,317	27,955	7,638	37·59	11·80	12·78
Scotland	30,940	34,826	3,886	12·55	17·98	15·93
Wales	1,029	1,319	290	28·18	0·60	0·60
New Zealand	41,235	64,052	22,817	55·33	23·95	29·29
Australian Colonies	9,533	11,313	1,780	18·67	5·54	5·17
Other British Dominions	3,109	3,798	689	22·16	1·80	1·74
United States of America	1,115	1,213	98	8·78	0·65	0·56
France	505	553	48	9·50	0·29	0·25
Germany	1,999	2,838	839	41·97	1·16	1·30
Other Foreign Countries (including China)	2,189	3,667	1,478	67·52	1·27	1·68
At Sea	601	751	150	24·96	0·35	0·34
Not specified	1,142	769	Decrease. 373	Decrease. 32·66	0·66	0·35
	172,158	218,668	46,510	27·01	100·00	100·00

Occupations.

On this, as on former occasions, I have carefully considered the practicability and expediency of adopting the more detailed modes of classification of occupations which have of late years been introduced in some other countries. But, although the census returns have been compiled with considerable labour and detail in this office, I have not thought it desirable to make any material alteration in the form of table in which they were presented in former years. The difficulties which I have previously more than once pointed out continue to impede any attempt to tabulate this branch of the census information in New Zealand without incurring the risk of showing conclusions which would almost certainly be misleading in effect, however close may be their merely verbal accordance with the household schedules. Amongst the causes of this difficulty continue to be—the great number of cases in which settlers follow more than one occupation—the instances (probably frequent) in which they entered in the schedules the professions or callings to which they were brought up, or with which they would prefer to be identified (perhaps from a notion of their superior "respectability," as if there were not true respectability in the diligent pursuit of any branch of honest industry), rather than those in which they are most habitually engaged, or from which they principally derive their maintenance; the vagueness of many of the descriptions, and the different names given to what may be regarded as really the same business. The tables will, however, afford a general view of the proportions in which the colonists are engaged in the chief employments and pursuits, and the following summary will show the comparative numbers in 1864 and 1867:— Tables XIII., XIV.

OCCUPATIONS.	1864.	1867.	Increase.		Proportions of Occupations to the Population.	
			Numerical.	Proportionate.	1864.	1867.
Trade, commerce, and manufactures	7,625	10,194	2,569	33·69	4·43	4·66
Agricultural and pastoral	12,089	18,863	6,774	56·03	7·02	8·63
Mechanics, artificers, and skilled workers	12,118	13,695	1,577	13·01	7·04	6·26
Mining	12,527	20,372	7,845	62·62	7·28	9·32
Professions—Clerical, medical, and legal	619	733	114	18·41	0·36	0·33
Teachers, surveyors, and other educated professions	1,106	1,477	371	33·54	0·64	0·67
Labourers	12,639	13,025	386	3·05	7·34	5·96
Domestic and general servants	6,202	7,259	1,057	17·04	3·60	3·32
Miscellaneous	13,951	27,829	13,878	99·47	8·11	12·73
No occupation stated (principally women and children)	93,282	105,221	11,939	12·79	54·18	48·12
	172,158	218,668	46,510	27·01	100·00	100·00

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Tables XV., XVI.

Religious Denominations.

The list of "religious bodies" in Schedule D. of "The Marriage Act, 1854 (as amended by "The Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1867"), has, as on former occasions, been made the basis of the compilation of the census results relating to religious denominations in 1867. A column has been added for the large number returned as "Protestants" without any more distinctive designation,—amounting to a total of 3,902 or 1·78 per cent. of the population. A column has also been introduced for those returned as "Pagans," "Chinese," or "Heathen," numbering 1,111 (most of them in the province of Otago).

Under the heading "otherwise described,"—that is, by designations which could not be brought under any of the previous headings in the table,—are 3,195 persons, or 1·46 per cent. This number will be found reduced to 248 persons by the note to Table XV., in which I have given the respective descriptions compiled from the schedules for 2,947. No designation has been omitted the persons returned as belonging to which numbered as many as 15 (including men, women, and children) in the Colony. For the remaining 248 persons there were no less than 49 descriptions; many of them, no doubt, almost identical in meaning, but all varying more or less in the form of expression.

The number not described in any way as to religious denomination was 1,752, or 0·80 per cent. of the population, being considerably smaller than that in 1864, when the number "not described" amounted to 2,618, or 1·52 per cent.

Proportion of each denomination to total population.

The centesimal calculations in Table No. XVI. show that according to the numbers given in the preceding Table (No. XV.), the Church of England had in December 1867, 42·53 per cent. of the population of the Colony; the Presbyterian Churches, 25·12 per cent.; the Roman Catholic Church, 13·91 per cent.; the Wesleyan Methodist Church, 7·62 per cent.; the Congregational Independents, 1·94 per cent.; the Baptists, 1·99 per cent.; the Primitive Methodists, 0·61 per cent.; the Lutherans, 1·09 per cent.; the Hebrews, 0·57 per cent.; the Society of Friends, 0·07 per cent.; "Protestants," not more distinctively described, were 1·78 per cent.; Pagans, Chinese, and Heathen, 0·51 per cent.; otherwise described, 1·46 per cent.; and not described in any way, 0·80 per cent.

The subjoined summary exhibits a comparison between 1864 and 1867, showing, for each of those years, the numbers of the population returned as belonging to each of the principal denominations; the increase or decrease on each in 1867, both in absolute numbers and in the centesimal proportions borne by those numbers to the numbers in 1864; and the centesimal proportion of each denomination to the total population in the respective years:—

Denomination.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1867.		Proportions to Total Population.	
	1864.	1867.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1864.	1867.
Church of England	73,118	92,990	19,872	27·17	42·47	42·53
Presbyterian Churches	42,058	54,929	12,871	30·60	24·43	25·12
Roman Catholic Church	21,507	30,413	8,906	41·41	12·49	13·91
Wesleyan Methodist Church	12,506	16,669	4,163	33·29	7·26	7·62
Congregational Independents	3,689	4,246	557	15·10	2·14	1·94
Baptists	3,391	4,353	962	28·37	1·97	1·99
Primitive Methodists	1,340	1,332	Dec. 8	Dec. 0·59	0·78	0·61
Lutheran Church	1,803	2,383	580	32·16	1·05	1·09
Hebrews	955	1,247	292	30·57	0·56	0·57
Society of Friends	128	146	18	14·06	0·08	0·07
Protestants (no particular denomination specified)	6,825	3,902	Dec. 2,923	Dec. 42·82	3·96	1·78
Otherwise described	2,220	4,306	2,086	93·96	1·29	1·97
Not described	2,618	1,752	Dec. 866	Dec. 33·07	1·52	0·80
	172,158	218,668	46,510	27·01	100·00	100·00

Education.

The census returns relating to this most important subject show the following general results. Of the population of the Colony, of both sexes and all ages, there were 45,411

unable to read or write; 15,396 who could read only; and 151,431 who could both read and write; to which are to be added 6,430 respecting whose state of education the schedules contained no information. Deducting these, it appears that, of the population under 15 years of age, there were 24,100,—viz., 12,391 males and 11,709 females; and, of the population aged 15 and upwards, 127,331, viz., 84,394 males and 42,937 females, —able to read and write. The centesimal proportions are as follow:—Under 15 years of age: cannot read, males 54·01 per cent.; females, 54·45 per cent.; read only, males 13·66 per cent.; females, 13·75 per cent. Read and write, males 32·33 per cent.; females, 31·80 per cent. Fifteen years and upwards: cannot read, males 3·22 per cent.; females 3·74 per cent. Read only: males 2·65 per cent.; females, 5·74 per cent. Read and write: males 94·13 per cent.; females 90·52 per cent. Both sexes and all ages: cannot read, 21·40 per cent.; read only, 7·25 per cent.; read and write, 71·35 per cent. In 1864 the proportion able to read and write was 72·70, so that, at first view, there would seem to be a retrogression in 1867; but before adopting that discouraging conclusion it is to be remembered that there were in the latter year 6,430 persons (many of them gold diggers respecting whom the census information was imperfect on various points), whose state of education was not shown in the schedules, while in 1864 the number similarly not described was only 2,862; and that all the proportions are to be viewed as subject to the qualification arising out of the necessary deduction of this number. It is right also to note that in 1864 the proportion of the total population able to read and write showed an increase of 4·03 per cent. as compared with 1861; while 1861 showed an increase of 5·16 per cent. on the proportion shown by the census of 1858.

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The information embodied in Table XX. includes the numbers of each sex attending school in each province in December 1867, distinguishing between schools receiving Government aid and private schools, and between day and Sunday schools; and showing the numbers of males and females respectively under five years of age, and between five and 15 in the Colony, and in each province.

Schools. Table XX.

The subjoined table presents a summary of the numbers attending schools in December 1867, as compared with the numbers in December 1864:—

Provinces.	At Day Schools.				At Sunday Schools.			
	Supported by Government Aid.		Private, or not receiving Government Aid.		At Sunday only.		At both Day and Sunday.	
	1864.	1867.	1864.	1867.	1864.	1867.	1864.	1867.
Auckland - -	1,447	571	2,573	3,258	529	1,353	2,380	2,584
Taranaki - - -	126	181	468	351	149	194	428	402
Wellington - -	828	970	1,235	1,793	347	668	933	1,438
Hawke's Bay - -	51	136	134	162	48	60	108	186
Nelson - - -	1,450	1,668	579	650	330	402	1,116	1,552
Marlborough - - -	99	238	135	111	11	81	75	298
Canterbury - -	1,456	2,178	1,341	2,297	633	1,298	1,775	3,048
Otago - - -	2,296	3,298	1,158	1,546	449	734	1,853	2,922
Southland - -	150	73	449	471	145	220	290	335
Totals - -	7,903	9,313	8,072	10,639	2,641	5,010	8,958	12,765

The nearest approach to what may be considered as the "school-going period" which is derivable from the census returns is that shown by the numbers between the ages of five and 15. Within those ages the population amounted to a total of 41,793; and the numbers returned as attending day schools to 19,952, being a proportion of 47·74 per cent. on that total, against 50·28 per cent. on the total (of 31,737) in 1864. Dividing the number within the specified ages according to the sexes, there were attending day schools (in 1867), of the total of males (which was 21,376) a total of 10,447, or 48·87 per cent., against 51·36 per cent. in 1864; and of the total of females (which was 20,417), a total of 9,505, or 46·55 per cent., against 49·25 per cent. in 1864. Taking the aggregate population *of all ages under fifteen*, (which amounted to 79,185 persons), the proportion attending day schools in 1867 was 25·20 per cent., against 27·36 per cent. in 1864.

These calculations have been carefully made from the returns supplied to this office; but, as I have had occasion to remark with regard to each of the previous censuses,

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the columns for school attendance are frequently those which are least satisfactorily filled up in the schedules; and, notwithstanding the efforts made to render clear the headings distinguishing between attendance on "day schools," on "Sunday schools *only*," and on "*both* day and Sunday schools," it is to be apprehended that there has sometimes been confusion or inaccuracy in the entries made by the householders. Notwithstanding, however, any defectiveness in parts of the returns, they distinctly bring out the facts, that in 1867 there were at least 19,952 scholars attending day schools (public or private) in the Colony; and that (including those attending Sunday schools only, and those attending both day and Sunday schools) 17,775 were receiving Sunday school instruction. The numbers of those receiving education *at home* cannot of course be exhibited in these returns; but the existence, extent, and value of home education in New Zealand should never be lost sight of, or treated as unimportant, in any comprehensive estimate of the means in operation for the intellectual and moral training of the youth of the Colony.

"Census Acts Amendment Act, 1867."

Most of the information in the remaining tables of this part was collected under the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly passed shortly before the census was taken. "The Census Acts Amendment Act, 1867" (besides providing that, in addition to the general triennial census, there shall in future be an annual account taken of the land in cultivation, and of the agricultural produce thereof), substituted for certain requirements of "The Census Act, 1858," a greatly extended schedule of subjects connected with agricultural and industrial statistics on which information was to be obtained. Notwithstanding the shortness of the interval between the passing of this Act and the time at which it was necessary that new forms of schedule should be prepared, printed, and sent out (with corresponding instructions), to the enumerators in the provinces, the objects of the Act were attained with a degree of success which (considering that many of the inquiries were then made for the first time) may, I think, be regarded as satisfactory and encouraging. The series of tables commencing with No. XXI. will be found to contain more or less complete information on nearly the whole of the subjects specified in its schedule.*

Land and Crops.

Tables XXI.–XXIII.

Table XXI. shows, in a summary form, for each province, and Table XXII. shows for each electoral district the extent of holding, distinguishing freehold and leasehold, the number of acres fenced, the number of acres broken up but not under crop, and the number of acres under each of the principal crops. Table XXIII. gives a comparative view for the years 1858, 1861, 1864, and 1867, of the quantity of land fenced and the numbers of acres under the respective crops, (excepting of course those which, having been newly introduced in the inquiries at the last census, could not be brought into a comparative table).

Extent of holdings.

The extent of holdings in the Colony was returned as 18,762,057 acres, viz., 5,068,440 acres freehold, and 13,693,617 acres leasehold.

The total number of acres fenced was 3,455,588, against 1,072,383 acres in 1864. No doubt this remarkable increase was, in a considerable degree, owing to the large extent of wire fencing erected in the pastoral districts, especially in Canterbury, where the number of acres in 1867 was returned as 1,013,576 acres in 1867, against 342,415 in 1864.

Land broken up, but not under crop.

The quantity of land broken up but not under crop was in December, 1867, 94,311 acres.

Land under crop.

The total quantity of land under crop was, in 1867, 676,909 acres, against 382,655 acres in 1864. Included in this total were,—47,786 acres of wheat, against 25,607 acres in 1864; 101,563 acres of oats, against 50,998 acres in 1864; 13,136 acres of barley, against 4,904 acres in 1864; 14,372 acres of potatoes, against 11,164 acres in 1864; 472,893 acres of sown grasses, against 272,123 acres in 1864. Details of the other crops (reducing the quantity given under the generalized heading of "in other crops" to 1,743 acres) will be found in the Table (No. XXI.).

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* The only exceptions are the "Extent and Description of Fencing," (as distinguished from the "Extent of Land Fenced," which is fully given), and "Forest Trees (Plantations of)." The inquiries respecting these were duly made in the census schedules, but the returns were so defective in some instances (being, indeed, as to the former wholly blank for two of the provinces), or when given so qualified by doubts as to their correctness, or so manifestly incorrect, that it would not be possible to compile from them tables which would be of any real value.

Live Stock.

Tables XXIV.–XXVI.

The aggregate number of live stock of all kinds (excepting poultry) was, in 1867, 8,924,520, against 5,310,062 in 1864.

Taking the principal kinds of live stock separately, the numbers were,—Horses, 65,715, against 49,409 in 1864; cattle, 312,835, against 249,760 in 1864; sheep, 8,418,579, against 4,937,273 in 1864. Amongst the additions introduced under the new Act are columns distinguishing the numbers of brood mares, breeding cows, and breeding ewes, which will be found in the Table (No. XXIV.).

The details of the information relating to live stock are in Table XXIV. for the provinces, and in Table XXV. for the electoral districts. No. XXVI. is a comparative table, showing the numbers in the years 1858, 1861, 1864, and 1867, respectively.

Butter and cheese.

Table XXIV. contains also information relating to the annual production of butter and of cheese, and to the numbers and descriptions of agricultural machines in the Colony. According to the returns, the production of butter in 1867 amounted to 3,834,252 lbs., and of cheese to 1,300,082 lbs. There were 579 thrashing machines, viz., 92 steam, 17 water, and 470 horse; 736 reaping machines, 12 steam ploughs, and 28 steam harrows.

Agricultural machines.

Mills, breweries, manufactories, &c.

With respect to the tables which follow the above, viz., mills for grinding and dressing corn (No. XXVII.), breweries (No. XXVIII.), and other manufactories or works (Nos. XXIX., XXX.), every effort has been made to secure all attainable information. The results arrived at are given in the tables, but I have deemed it necessary to append to them notes indicating that they are to be regarded as defective,—probably, or certainly, understating the truth in several instances, through the failure of proprietors to supply the desired particulars, if not (as I cannot but apprehend may in some instances have been the fact) through want of sufficiently careful and thoughtful inquiry on the part of the persons intrusted locally with the charge of collecting the information. With regard to these special branches of inquiry, however, difficulty in obtaining full and accurate information is experienced in other countries as well as in New Zealand, as an illustration of which I may mention that I found notes appended to similar tables in the statistics of Victoria applying so exactly to the state of the case here that I thought I could not do better than to adopt them almost verbatim for my notes. At the same time, it is evident that the figures given have a definite value as showing the existence of at least the amount of industry and production indicated by them; the uncertainty being as to *how much more* there may be in the Colony than they show.

Land and building societies. Hospitals.

Tables are added relating to societies formed under Building and Land Societies Acts in the Colony (No. XXXI.), and to hospital accommodation and relief (No. XXXII.). An attempt was made to obtain information relating to some additional subjects on which the schedules to "The Census Act, 1858," authorize inquiry to be made, and which are not specified in the schedule to the Act of 1867. But I have to repeat what I stated on former occasions, viz., that, "while from some places the returns appeared "to be comparatively full and reliable, from others they were not such as to render "it practicable to classify and arrange the whole in any adequately comprehensive "and accurate shape, although no small amount of labour has been bestowed upon "them in this office. I would, however, repeat the expression of my hope that the "information will ultimately be found of value, not only in itself, but as a guide to "further inquiries which may issue in more satisfactory results." The Colony is still comparatively young; and as it advances to greater maturity in other respects, it may, I trust, be expected that the facilities for collecting and classifying statistics on subjects beyond those which (as relating immediately to its material progress) obtain primary attention, will manifest a corresponding advance, until they comprehend, in their degree, all that is now accomplished in older countries.

Appendix.

The Appendix to Part I. contains (Appendix A.) descriptions of the territory comprised in the respective electoral districts named in the preceding Census Tables; and (Appendix B. and Appendix C.) tables showing approximately the aboriginal native population of the Colony. The former of these having been particularly referred to in this report, it is not necessary to remark further upon them in this place.

Part II.—General Statistics.

New Zealand.

Population, &c. Table I.

The first table in this part is a summary of the population of the Colony, with the "condition" (married or unmarried) of the people, and the numbers and descriptions of houses inhabited by them. The information has, of course, been compiled from the census returns, and is to be found in detail in Part I. of this volume; but I have thought it expedient to give in this place a compendious view of this portion of the census results as an appropriate introduction to the tables which follow, and as filling the position in the series which, in the years when a census has not been taken, is occupied by the table showing an estimate of the population.

Immigration and Emigration.

Table II.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in the year 1867 amounted to 11,126 persons, of whom 7,581 were males and 3,545 females. Of the males 6,757 were adults and 824 children; of the females 2,869 were adults and 676 children.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony amounted to 6,267 persons, of whom 5,075 were males and 1,192 females. Of the males 4,680 were adults and 395 children; of the females 896 were adults and 296 children.

The net excess of immigration over emigration for the whole Colony in 1867 was 4,859, being 2,740 less than the net excess in 1866.

Taking the provinces separately, there was, in 1867, in Auckland a net excess of emigration over immigration amounting to 300. In all the other provinces the immigration exceeded the emigration; viz., in Taranaki, 10; in Wellington, 449; in Hawke's Bay, 170; in Nelson, 387; in Marlborough, 33; in Canterbury, 2,325; in Otago, 1,772; and in Southland, 13.

The following figures show the immigration and emigration in 1867, classified according to the countries from which the immigrants arrived, and to which the emigrants went:—

Immigration.				Emigration.			
Countries.	M.	F.	Total.	Countries.	M.	F.	Total.
United Kingdom -	2,372	2,088	4,460	United Kingdom -	417	221	638
Australian Colonies -	4,929	1,343	6,272	Australian Colonies -	4,214	812	5,026
Other British Ports -	7	5	12	Other British Ports -	10	2	12
Foreign States - -	273	109	382	Foreign States - -	434	157	591

The excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, is thus shown to have been, United Kingdom, 3,822, and Australian Colonies, 1,246. The immigration and emigration from and to other British ports happened to be exactly the same number, viz., 12. But, as respects Foreign States, the emigration was 209 in excess of the immigration.

The table which, in previous years, professed to show the arrivals and departures between the several ports of the Colony, has been omitted in this volume. I have repeatedly, even when introducing it, deemed it necessary to point out its incompleteness, and almost inevitable inaccuracy; and in the report prefixed to the statistics for 1866 I remarked, "I do not think that the value of the statistical volume would be really diminished by the omission of this table in future years, especially as, even if it were perfectly accurate in itself, it could not afford any adequate view of the actual migration from one part of New Zealand to another, no considerable portion of which is by *overland* routes." In the present volume I have substituted for it a comparative table showing, with the closest attainable approximation to correctness, the immigration and emigration (over seas) to and from New Zealand during the respective years 1853 to 1867 inclusive.

Table III.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Tables IV., V., Births.

The total number of births registered in New Zealand during the year was 8,918, viz., 4,595 males and 4,323 females. The total in 1866 was 8,466, viz., 4,284 males and 4,182 females. The increase in 1867 was therefore 452, viz., 311 males and 141 females. The increase in 1866, as compared with 1865, was 976, viz., 437 males and 539 females.

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Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in 1867 was 2,702, viz., 1,621 males and 1,081 females. The total in 1866 was 2,540, viz., 1,567 males and 973 females. The increase in 1867 was therefore 162, viz., 54 males and 108 females. In 1865 the number was 2,757, viz., 1,658 males and 1,099 females.

Of the deaths in 1867, 873 (viz., 471 males and 402 females) were under one year of age; 244 (viz., 123 males and 121 females), one and under two years; and 198 (viz., 106 males and 92 females), two and under five years; making a total of 1,315 (viz., 700 males and 615 females), or 48·66 per cent. of the whole under five years.

The general total of deaths includes 125 (viz., 118 males and 7 females), or 4·62 per cent. of the whole, from drowning; and 153 (viz., 137 males and 16 females), or 5·66 per cent. of the whole, from other external causes; making a total of 278 from such causes, being 10·28 per cent. of the deaths during the year.

The proportions of births and deaths to every thousand persons living in each of the last seven years are shown approximately in the following table:—

Year.	Estimated Population at Middle of Year.	Births.		Deaths.	
		Number Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 living.	Number Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 living.
1861 -	89,323	3,441	38·52	1,109	12·41
1862 - -	112,416	4,064	36·15	1,231	10·95
1863 -	144,930	5,115	35·29	1,983	13·68
1864 - -	168,833	6,501	38·50	2,921	17·30
1865 -	182,113	7,490	41·12	2,757	15·13
1866 - -	197,360	8,466	42·89	2,540	12·86
1867 -	211,391	8,918	42·18	2,702	12·78

These figures show for 1867 one birth to every 23, and one death to every 78 persons living. The average for the seven years is one birth to every 25, and one death to every 74 persons.

The excess of births over deaths in 1867 was 6,216 (viz., 2,974 males and 3,242 females). The total excess of registered births over registered deaths in the 13 years included in these tables was 38,281 (viz., 17,922 males and 20,359 females).

Marriages. Tables VI., VII.

The total number of marriages solemnized in New Zealand in 1867 was 2,050, being 12 more than in 1866. Of these 1,886 were by ministers of religion and 164 by registrars. The respective numbers solemnized by ministers of the several religious bodies were as follow:—United Church of England and Ireland, 514; Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, and Presbyterian Congregations, 708; Roman Catholic Church, 328; Wesleyan Methodists, 194; Congregational Independents, 57; Baptists, 52; Primitive Methodists, 20; Lutheran Church, 2; Hebrew Congregations, 4; and United Methodist Free Churches, 10.

The tables show the numbers of marriages in the respective provinces in each year since "The Marriage Act, 1854," came into operation; and the numbers solemnized by officiating ministers and by registrars in each year within that period.

Trade and Interchange.

Shipping. Tables VIII., IX.

Six tables are occupied by information relating to shipping.

The first two show the numbers, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at the several ports of New Zealand during the year 1867. The total *inwards* was 944 vessels of 309,568 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1866, of 75 in the number of vessels, and of 20,735 in the tonnage. The total *outwards* was 950 vessels of 308,169 tonnage, being as compared with 1866, a decrease of 36 in the number of vessels, but an increase of 1,190 in the tonnage.

Tables X., XI.

The next two tables show vessels, tonnage, and crews classified according to "countries whence arrived," and "countries for which cleared." Of the total of 944 vessels *inwards*, 88, of 63,644 tonnage, arrived from the United Kingdom; 783, of 217,186 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British Possessions; and 73, of 28,738 tonnage, from Foreign Countries (including the Southern Whale Fishery). Of the total of 950 vessels *outwards*, 47, of 33,914 tonnage, cleared for the United Kingdom; 742, of 213,553 tonnage, for the Australian Colonies and other British Possessions; and 161, of 60,702 tonnage, for Foreign Countries (including the Southern Whale Fishery).

Tables XII., XIII.

The two following tables show the "nationality" of the vessels, inwards and outwards. Of the total 944 inwards, 283, of 153,967 tonnage, were British; 632, of 142,880

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tonnage, Colonial; 22, of 9,988 tonnage, American; 1, of 495 tonnage, French; 1, of 160 tonnage, Danish; 1, of 432 tonnage, German; 2, of 1,356 tonnage, Russian; and 2, of 290 tonnage, Tahitian....Of the total 950 outwards, 235, of 145,555 tonnage, were British; 684, of 149,417 tonnage, were Colonial; 23, of 9,951 tonnage, American; 1, of 702 tonnage, French; 2, of 638 tonnage, German; 1, of 160 tonnage, Danish; 2, of 1,356 tonnage, Russian; and 2, of 390 tonnage, Tahitian.

Table XXX.

The number of registered vessels belonging to ports in the Colony may be conveniently noticed here, although the table relating to them is placed in a subsequent part of the volume. The total number in December 1867 was 366, of 23,240 tonnage. Of these 173, of 9,306 tonnage, belonged to the port of Auckland, showing an apparent decrease of 135 vessels, of 3,999 tonnage, as compared with 1866. But (as is explained in a note to the table) this decrease on the year is only apparent, it having been ascertained that a large number of vessels previously counted were no longer in existence, and that, in fact, they had been incorrectly retained on the books long after they should have been omitted, because the owners (mostly aboriginal natives) had not understood the necessity for delivering up the certificates of registry.

Imports and exports. Tables XIV.–XXIX.

The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1867 was 5,344,607*l.* against 5,894,863*l.* in 1866, being a decrease of 550,256*l.*, or 9·33 per cent.

The following figures show the increase or decrease in each of the provinces in 1867, as compared with 1866:—

Imports. Total value in 1867 as compared with 1866.

	£		
Auckland - -	decrease	301,693, or 27·42	per cent.
Taranaki - - -	decrease	32,458, or 50·47	,,
Wellington - -	decrease	195,184, or 25·80	,,
Hawke's Bay - -	decrease	4,799, or 5·81	,,
Nelson - - -	increase	10,976, or 2·49	,,
Marlborough - -	increase	3,244, or 24·49	,,
Canterbury - -	decrease	3,604, or 0·22	,,
Otago - - -	decrease	29,582, or 1·81	,,
Southland - -	increase	2,807, or 1·50	,,

A comparison of the value of imports in 1866 and 1867 according to the countries whence they were received gives the following results:—

	1866. £	1867. £		£
United Kingdom - -	2,737,702	2,779,463	Increase	41,761
British Colonies - -	2,894,159	2,332,744	Decrease	561,415
Foreign States - -	263,002	232,400	Decrease	30,602
Totals - -	5,894,863	5,344,607	Net decrease	550,256

Exports. Total value in 1867 as compared with 1866.

The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1867 was 4,644,678*l.* against 4,520,074*l.* in 1866, being an increase in 1867 of 124,604*l.*, or 2·75 per cent. Excluding the value of imported goods re-exported from the Colony, the total value of exports of New Zealand produce and manufactures amounted in 1867 to 4,479,464*l.* against 4,396,100 in 1866, being an increase of 83,364*l.*, or 1·89 per cent.

More particular reference may be made to the two great exports of the Colony,—gold and wool.

Gold.

The total value of gold exported from the Colony in 1867 amounted to 2,700,275*l.* against 2,844,517*l.* in 1866, being a decrease of 144,242*l.*, or 5·07 per cent. Of the total value of gold exported in 1867, the following were the amounts of the produce of the gold fields in the several provinces:—Auckland, 20,700*l.*; Nelson (including Westland North), 894,728*l.*; Marlborough, 1,978*l.*; Canterbury (including Westland South), 1,159,326*l.*; Otago, 587,326*l.*; and Southland, 36,117*l.*

The total value of the gold which was exported from New Zealand up to the 31st of December 1867 amounted to 14,540,573*l.*

Wool.

The total value of wool exported from the Colony in 1867 was 1,580,608*l.* against 1,354,152*l.* in 1866, being an increase of 226,456*l.*, or 16·72 per cent.

Tables XIV.–XXIX.

The information relating to imports and exports which has thus been briefly summarised will be found at large in this volume (Part II.). Tables XIV. and XV. give the total value of imports and exports respectively for the several ports in New Zealand in 1867. Tables XVI. and XVII. show, in a condensed form, the total value

of imports and exports for the Colony in each year from 1853 to 1867 inclusive, distinguishing the provinces and the respective amounts imported from or exported to the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign States. Tables XVIII. and XIX. show the imports and exports in detail at each port of the Colony in 1867. The ten following tables contain summaries presenting compendiously the totals of various articles of export in 1867, compared with previous years. Separate tables of this description are appropriated to gold, grain, kauri gum, oil, potatoes, timber, wool, and hides and sheepskins. NEW ZEALAND.

Revenue of the Colony.

The customs revenue in 1867 amounted to 843,804*l.* against 844,267*l.* in 1866, being a decrease of 463*l.*, or 0·05 per cent. Tables XXXI.–XXXVII.

The following figures show the comparative amounts realized by this branch of the revenue during the eight years, 1860 to 1867 inclusive:—

	£		£	
1860 - -	189,168	being an increase of	20,852,	or 12·38 per cent.
1861 - -	260,863	„ „	71,695,	or 37·90 „
1862 - -	399,436	„ „	138,573,	or 53·12 „
1863 - -	592,050	„ „	192,614,	or 48·22 „
1864 - -	592,346	„ „	296,	or 0·05 „
1865 - -	730,008	„ „	137,662,	or 23·24 „
1866 - -	844,267	„ „	114,259,	or 15·65 „
1867 - -	843,804	being a decrease of	463,	or 0·05 „

The total ordinary revenue in 1867 amounted to 1,225,584*l.* against 1,086,293*l.* in 1866, being an increase of 139,291*l.*, or 12·82 per cent.

The total territorial revenue in 1867 amounted to 561,730*l.*, against 776,429*l.* in 1866, being a decrease of 214,699*l.* of 27·65 per cent.

[It is to be understood that the total given as territorial revenue in 1867 includes 83,318*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* duty on gold exported, and 53,487*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* for miners rights and gold field fees. The subjoined tabular view shows the component parts of the general total for each province and for the Colony:—

Provinces.	Revenue collected by Receivers of Land Revenue (shown in Table 35).	Duty on Gold exported (shown in Table 32).	Miners' Rights and Gold Field Fees (shown in Tables 32 and 33).	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland - - -	17,242 18 11	881 15 1	397 9 0	18,522 3 0
Taranaki - - -	419 2 6	—	—	419 2 6
Wellington - - -	18,234 3 4	—	—	18,234 3 4
Hawke's Bay - - -	13,867 14 8	—	—	13,867 14 8
Nelson - - - -	7,887 9 4	29,467 15 7	32,315 9 8	69,670 14 7
Marlborough - - -	10,884 19 2	63 12 3	110 19 8	11,059 11 1
Canterbury - - -	138,083 13 0	38,161 11 8	10,819 7 6	187,064 12 2
Otago - - -	172,015 13 3	12,599 8 10	9,684 6 3	194,299 8 4
Southland - - -	47,287 14 2	1,144 6 0	159 11 6	48,591 11 8
Totals - -	425,923 8 4	82,318 9 5	53,487 3 7	561,729 1 4

Auckland includes 14,830*l.* 2*s.*, and Taranaki includes 419*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, proceeds of land sold under the New Zealand Settlements Acts, subject to special appropriation, and therefore not "land revenue" in the usual acceptation of the term].

The general total of the revenue (both ordinary and territorial) amounted in 1867 to 1,787,314*l.* against 1,862,722*l.* in 1866, being a decrease of 75,408*l.* or 4·04 per cent. General total of revenue.

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Comparison of 1866 and 1867.

The subjoined table presents a comparative view of the revenue, ordinary and territorial, in the several provinces in 1866 and 1867, specifying the centesimal increase or decrease in each province in the latter year :—

Provinces.	Ordinary Revenue.			Territorial Revenue.			Total Ordinary and Territorial.		
	1866.	1867.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1866.	1867.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1866.	1867.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.
	£	£		£	£		£	£	
Auckland -	202,846	178,145	Decr. 12·17	4,544	18,522	Incr. 307·61	207,390	196,667	Decr. 5·17
Taranaki -	18,584	15,220	Decr. 18·10	—	419	Incr. 419·00	18,584	15,639	Decr. 15·84
Wellington -	119,669	148,210	Incr. 23·84	41,551	18,234	Decr. 56·11	161,220	166,444	Incr. 3·24
Hawke's Bay -	36,990	34,111	Decr. 7·78	16,095	13,868	Decr. 13·83	53,085	47,979	Decr. 9·61
Nelson - -	75,950	100,963	Incr. 32·93	46,045	69,671	Decr. 51·31	121,995	170,634	Incr. 39·86
Marlborough -	8,803	12,046	Incr. 36·83	25,615	11,060	Decr. 56·82	34,418	23,106	Decr. 32·86
Canterbury -	319,137	375,805	Incr. 17·75	320,610	187,065	Decr. 41·65	639,747	562,870	Decr. 12·01
Otago - -	259,820	309,456	Incr. 19·10	150,874	194,299	Incr. 28·78	410,694	503,755	Incr. 22·65
Southland -	44,350	51,351	Incr. 15·78	171,095	48,592	Decr. 71·59	215,445	99,943	Decr. 53·61
Chatham Islands	144	277	Incr. 92·36	—	—	—	144	277	Incr. 92·36
	1,086,293	1,225,584	Incr. 12·82	776,429	561,730	Decr. 27·65	1,862,722	1,787,314	Decr. 4·04

Income and expenditure. Tables XXXII., XXXIII., XXXIV.

Table XXXV.

The income and expenditure of the Colony and of the provinces are shown in three tables. The first of these (No. XXXII.) exhibits, on opposite pages, income and expenditure in their various branches as relating to the colonial treasury and the provincial treasuries taken collectively. The two succeeding tables show the income and expenditure of the several provinces taken separately. A table follows which shows in detail the receipts and disbursements of the receivers of land revenue in the several provinces.

Debt of the General and Provincial Governments.

Tables XXXVI. and XXXVIA.

Two tables of two sheets each (instead of one table as in previous years) are given to the debt of the general and provincial governments, authorized by Acts or Ordinances, up to the 31st of December 1867; to which date, it is to be borne in mind, the information strictly applies. The first (No. XXXVI.) exhibits the following particulars: the total amount authorized to be borrowed, specifying by what government and under what authority; the total amount raised on the 31st of December 1867, specifying the amount of debentures in circulation, the rate of interest, and when the respective debentures are redeemable; also the rate of sinking fund, the amount of sinking fund accrued, and the manner in which it has been invested. Table XXXVI A. (a new table) gives further information. No. XXXVI. showed the debt of the Colony owing by the general and provincial governments respectively, as the loans were authorized by each, but subsequent legislation, and the creation of new provinces, have distributed the liability in other proportions. No. XXXVI A. shows the actual liability of each government as it really existed on the 31st of December 1867, the authority for the adjustment being in each case quoted. A second series of columns in the table shows the amount of debentures that then remained to be issued under existing authorities. Explanatory remarks, when necessary, are added to each of the tables. To these, and to the notes to the respective tables, it will be necessary to refer for a view of this subject which it would not be possible to give clearly except in connexion with the figures as they are shown at length in the tables.

It will be seen that, according to No. XXXVI., the actual authorized liability of the Colony was 6,778,600*l.*; and, according to No. XXXVI A., 6,812,600*l.* The assistant treasurer has furnished the following memorandum in explanation of this apparent discrepancy :—

"An apparent discrepancy will be observed between the tables marked 36 and 36 a as to the total liabilities of the Colony. The explanation is, that while under existing powers the liability might be increased to 6,812,600 (Table XXXVI A.), it will be found ultimately that the actual liability will not exceed 6,778,600*l.* (Table XXXVI.), and probably will not reach quite to that amount."

The total amount of debentures in circulation on the 31st of December 1867 was 5,781,193*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, and the total amount of sinking fund accrued was 298,991*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

Joint Stock Companies.

Table XXXVIII.

The total number of joint stock companies incorporated under the Acts of 1860 and 1862 up to the end of 1867 was 91. Of these, 1 was incorporated in 1861, 13 in 1862, 19 in 1863, 12 in 1864, 15 in 1865, 18 in 1866, and 13 in 1867. Of the companies

established in 1867, two were in the province of Auckland, seven in the province of Canterbury, and four in the province of Otago. The table referred to in the margin shows various particulars relating to the several companies from the commencement of the operation of the Act of 1860.

NEW ZEALAND.

Waste Lands—Sales, &c.

The information under this heading is differently arranged from the mode adopted in previous years, and extended to the Crown lands held under leases. Table XXXIX. shows the numbers of acres of waste lands sold in the several provinces in 1867, with the rate per acre, and other particulars. Table XL. shows the numbers of acres absolutely disposed of without sale—to immigrants; to naval and military settlers under New Zealand Settlements Acts, &c.; reserves granted for public purposes under "Public Reserves Act, 1854;" to Europeans and natives under "Waste Lands Act, 1858," "Crown Grants Act (No. 2), 1862," Native Reserves Acts, &c.; to natives by grants under "Native Lands Act, 1865," &c.; and in satisfaction of land, scrip, or otherwise not specified. Table XLI. (now introduced into the series for the first time) shows the Crown lands held under depasturing and other leases (except for gold mining), and the rents, &c., paid, for the year 1867 in the several provinces.

Tables XXXIX., XL., and XLI.

Prices of Provisions and Live Stock.

A table, prepared on the same plan as in previous years, shows the average prices of provisions and live stock in each of the provinces in the year 1867.

Table XLII.

Post Office.

The total numbers of letters received at the several post offices in New Zealand in 1867 were—foreign (from places without the Colony), 559,389, against 584,461 in 1866; and inland (within the Colony), 1,848,942, against 1,820,327 in 1866, making a general total of 2,408,331, against 2,404,788 in 1866, being an increase of 3,543. . . The total numbers of letters despatched were—foreign, 538,565, against 581,726 in 1866; and inland 1,864,344, against 1,772,130 in 1866, making a general total of 2,402,909, against 2,353,856 in 1866, being an increase of 49,053.

Letters received and despatched. Tables XLIII., XLIV.

The total numbers of newspapers received in 1867 were—foreign, 973,885 against 1,166,351 in 1866; and inland, 696,635, against 793,177 in 1866, making a general total of 1,670,520 against 1,959,528 in 1866, being a decrease of 289,008. The total numbers of newspapers despatched in 1866 were—foreign 346,913, against 595,803 in 1866; and inland, 1,043,455, against 1,817,708 in 1866, making a general total of 1,390,368, against 2,413,511 in 1866, being a decrease of 23,143.

Newspapers received and despatched. Tables XLV., XLVI.

A comparative table shows the postal revenue in detail, in the several provinces, for the respective years 1858 to 1867 inclusive. The total amount in 1867 was 55,331*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, against 47,836*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* in 1866, being an increase of 7,495*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, or 15·66 per cent. This does not include the sums received as commission on the issue of money orders (1,846*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*), or for telegraphic messages (11,146*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*)

Postal revenue. Tables XLVII.

The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1867 was 24,473 against 22,710 in 1866, being an increase of 1,763. The total amount of these orders in 1867 was 115,610*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*, against 108,779*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, being an increase of 6,831*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* . . The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1867 was 12,659, against 10,903 in 1866, being an increase of 1,756. The total amount of these orders in 1867 was 61,151*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, against 52,549*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* in 1866, being an increase of 8,603*l.* 17*s.*

Money Orders. Table XLVIII.

Savings Banks.

The information relating to savings banks now occupies two tables; a new and separate table being required for the transactions of the recently established Post Office Savings Banks in the Colony.

Tables XLIX., L.

These banks (the first of which were opened in February 1867) at the end of the year numbered altogether 46, distributed as follows in the provinces:—12 in the province of Auckland; 1 in Taranaki; 1 in Hawke's Bay; 2 in Wellington; 3 in Marlborough; 3 in Nelson; 8 in Canterbury; 13 in Otago; and 3 in Southland. The aggregate number of accounts opened during the year was 2,520; the deposits in connexion with which amounted to a total of 96,372*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* The amount withdrawn was 26,344*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* The number of accounts closed was 364, for an amount of 8,183*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* (included in the sum given as the total of the amount withdrawn). At

Post Office Savings Banks. Table XLIX.

NEW ZEALAND.

the end of the year, therefore, the remaining number of depositors was 2,156, and the balance due to those depositors was 70,027*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

Previously existing Savings Banks. Table L.

The number of savings banks, other than those connected with the post office, was 10. The total number of persons having deposits in these banks on the 31st of December 1867 was 4,423 (of whom 32 were Maories). The total deposits during the year amounted to 71,378*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; and the total of the sums withdrawn to 80,784*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 85,658*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*

Taking both classes of savings banks together, the following results appear. On the 31st of December 1867 there were 6,579 depositors, and there was a total to the credit of such depositors amounting to 155,686*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* On the 31st December 1866 (when the Post Office Savings Bank system had not yet come into operation, the total number of depositors in the then existing banks was 4,513, to whose credit was a total amount of 91,863*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* A comparison of the figures for the two dates is gratifying, as affording (to quote the words of the Postmaster-General in his last Report), "evidence not only of material prosperity on the part of an important portion of the community, but also of the growth of habits of prudence and thrift which it was the object of these savings banks to foster and encourage."

Legal and criminal statistics.

Table LI., LXIII.

Thirteen tables are occupied by the Legal and Criminal Statistics of the Colony for 1867. Three of these (Nos. LI., LII., and LIII.) relate to the Supreme Court, showing the criminal and the civil cases, and the petitions and deeds of composition filed under the debtors and creditors Acts (this last table comprising the periods from the 1st June 1863, when the Act of 1862 came into operation, to the 1st of December 1867, from which date those Acts were superseded by the provisions of "The Bankruptcy Act, 1867"). . . Two tables, Nos. LIV. and LV., show the criminal and the civil cases brought before the several district courts. . . Seven tables, Nos. LVI.—LXII., are occupied by the cases brought before resident magistrates and magistrates' courts, in which the cases in which Europeans, or Maories, or both were concerned are distinguished. A comparative summary (No. LVIII.) shows the numbers of convictions in the resident magistrates' courts for each of the offences of most frequent occurrence in each year from 1853 to 1867 inclusive. . . The last table in this series (No. LXIII.) shows the numbers of prisoners committed to gaol in 1867, specifying the sexes, the cause of imprisonment, the native countries, the classes (as to social position), and the degree of education of the prisoners. The total number committed was 4,152 (viz., 3,570 males, and 582 females), being 525 more than in 1866, when the total was 3,627 (viz., 3,162 males, and 465 females).

Public Schools.

Table LXIV.

According to the Returns (supplied by the several provincial governments) from which the table was compiled, there was in the Colony, in December 1867, a total of 268 public schools, viz., 21 boys', 14 girls', and 233 mixed), being 15 schools more than in December 1866. The total number of teachers was 347 (viz., 232 male, and 115 female teachers), being 24 more than in 1866. The total (highest) number of pupils on the books in the December quarter was 12,866 (viz., 7,378 boys, and 5,488 girls), being an increase of 416 children on the total in December 1866. The proportions of these totals belonging to the respective provinces will be found detailed in the table (No. LXIV.), which also shows, so far as the Returns have supplied the information, the average daily attendance, the ages of the pupils, and the branches of education taught.

Meteorology.

Appendix A. to K.

In an Appendix to Part II. of the volume will be fouud a series of Meteorological tables for 1867, which have been supplied by Dr. Hector, Inspector of Meteorological Stations. The series includes 11 tables, the first of which gives, in a comprehensive form, a comparative view of the climate, as observed during the year 1867, at the Meteorological Stations in New Zealand (excepting Napier, from which there were no Returns). The 10 tables which follow show the results of observations at Mongonui, Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Hokitika, Bealey, Dunedin, and Southland.

I have, &c.
JOHN B. BENNETT,
Registrar-General.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-General Sir R. AIREY, G.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 43.)

MY LORD DUKE, Gibraltar, March 2, 1868.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1867, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

2. The revenue for the year was 36,647*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* sterling, and the actual expenditure was 33,316*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* sterling.

3. In pages 28 to 31 are seen the increase and decrease on various sources of revenue from the preceding year.

4. The principal items upon which an increase has been derived are,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Duty on wines - - - - -	210	4	11
„ spirits - - - - -	160	6	3
Rent on wine houses - - - -	143	7	4
„ taverns - - - - -	211	1	9
Auction dues - - - - -	239	4	6
Ground and house rents - - - -	490	4	7
Rates and duties in the Port Department - -	641	0	10

5. The only item showing any decrease is that for licenses of wine and spirit stores, 290*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

6. The sole increased expenditure worthy of remark is for authorized repairs to the Governor's cottage which was in ruins, and for which a deduction of 100*l.* per annum is made from his salary; and incidental repairs to the civil hospital and revenue buildings.

7. The increase of revenue over expenditure, amounting to 3,330*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* sterling, I consider to be very satisfactory.

8. According to the last survey of the chest, held on the 31st December 1867, there was a sum of 7,607*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* sterling in hand, and there is a further sum of 7,200*l.* sterling invested in exchequer bills.

9. The resident population, according to a census taken in 1860, amounted to 15,462, and is exclusive of the military, the convicts, and aliens on temporary permits varying from three days to a year.

10. The number of births among the resident population was 571, marriages 159, and deaths 463.

11. Among alien strangers and non-residents the deaths were 39.

12. Under the head of Miscellaneous Returns are inserted the number of cases heard and disposed of in the various courts of law of Gibraltar.

13. The schools are seven in number, in which are educated 903 boys and 635 girls; besides these there are seven regimental schools, in which are instructed 243 boys and 213 girls.

14. Enclosed are likewise reports upon the state of repair of the Convent or Government House, the Governor's cottage, and the public furniture, &c., &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD AIREY,

Lieut.-Gen. Commanding and Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir P. GRANT, G.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 67.)

MY LORD DUKE, Palace, Valletta, June 3, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1867.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. GRANT, Lt.-General,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

HELIGOLAND AND FALKLAND ISLANDS.

HELI-GOLAND.

No. 22.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 22.

(No Report has been received from Heligoland for the year 1867.)

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 23.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 23

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor ROBINSON to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 118.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Falkland Islands, September 29, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Falkland Islands for the year 1867.

2. The local revenue amounted to 1,611*l.*, and exceeded that of 1866 by 425*l.* The parliamentary grant in aid of the local revenue for the financial year 1867-68 was 5,836*l.*, that for 1868–69, 5,016*l.*

3. I may be permitted to observe that in the short space of three years the local revenue has been nearly doubled, and that, taking into account the estimates now in course of preparation, our demands on the Imperial parliament have been reduced by an amount (1,743*l.*) which represents rather more than one-fourth of the total expenditure.

4. The following extract from a despatch which I addressed to you on the 25th of May last on the subject of the West Falkland Land Regulations will not be out of place. "When submitting to your Grace, on the 8th of August last, the new regulations with regard to the disposal of Crown lands on the West Falkland, I ventured on the following remarks :—

"I have reason to believe that the regulations are greatly appreciated by intending settlers, and I entertain a strong confidence that they will tend to the speedy and profitable occupation of the West Falkland group.

"I have now the pleasure to forward a chart with schedule attached, showing that these favourable anticipations have been entirely realized. The boundaries of the different sheep stations, into which the island has been divided, are indicated in the chart, and your Grace will observe that the whole of the available land on the main island has already passed into the hands of private individuals. Twelve months ago there was not a settler on the island, now there is not one acre of land with the exception of the Government reserves unoccupied. Twelve months ago the island did not contribute in any manner to the revenue, now the land rents amount (or rather will amount next year, for as yet the land is held under occupation licence, for which only half rent is paid) to over 1,300*l.* per annum. Believing the West Falkland to be peculiarly adapted for sheep, I always felt that the relaxation, as regards that island, of certain conditions, which I could not but see had retarded the settlement of the east island (I refer to the conditions to which Mr. Waldron objected when contemplating a settlement on the West Falkland, and which were detailed in my despatch No. 7 of 28th August 1866) was very desirable; but I freely confess that the actual result has far exceeded my most sanguine expectations."

I ought to add that since the above was written the large islands of Weddell and Saunders have been taken up, and that the only land now available is on the East Falkland, on which island some 150,000 acres (somewhat swampy and inferior) are still unoccupied.

5. Last winter was unprecedentedly severe; notwithstanding this, and the trying process to which the sheep are subjected on arrival in order to free them from scab (they are immersed in tobacco water at a temperature of 96 degrees, and then turned loose to encounter the fierce winds of this boisterous climate), the prospects of the sheep farmers are considered to be very encouraging. The grasses of the Falkland would appear to be of a nutritious character. I am assured by gentlemen of great experience in such

matters, that imported sheep, especially those placed on the West Falkland, improve with remarkable rapidity. For example, out of one cargo landed on that island in the early part of last year from the warmer climate of the river Plate, about two per cent. died from the effects of the severe, but apparently necessary dipping process; the remainder in the course of a few weeks were in excellent condition, and have continued so ever since. These sheep when landed were poor and covered with scab. It is evident the food must be suitable and of good quality, or sheep brought suddenly from a hot to a cold climate, and so roughly acclimatized, if I may so term it, would not live at all. Of course sheep imported from England would fare better in point of climate than those brought from the River Plate. They would also be freer from scab. But the expense of this would be far greater, regard being had to the original cost of the sheep and the great distance of the Colony from England. The River Plate sheep, on the other hand, can be landed in the Falklands at a cost of from twenty to twenty-eight shillings per head.

6. In illustration of the value of this harbour as a port of refuge, I may mention that at one time in the month of August, after a continuance of bad weather, there were no less than eight vessels in port, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,798 tons, which had been more or less disabled in endeavouring to round the Horn, and which in all probability must have been lost (some at all events) but for the rest, refreshment, and facilities for effecting repairs afforded by this place; the inhospitable shores of Fuegia and Patagonia containing no suitable port of refuge, and the crews of the vessels being in more cases than one so worn out by cold, fatigue, and scurvy as to be incapable of working their crippled ships to Monte Video or Valparaiso in safety.

7. In other respects the condition of the Colony is much as it was at the date of my last annual Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,

Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

P.S. I am told at the last moment that owing to a pressure of business in the office the fair copy of the Blue Book cannot be completed in time for transmission by this mail. I am unwilling to delay this Report any longer, and will forward the Blue Book itself by the first opportunity.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1867.

PART III.

EASTERN COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1869.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1869.

24529.

SCHEDULE.

PART III.

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CEYLON.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General HODGSON to his Grace the DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 110.)

The Queen's House, Colombo,
November 14, 1868.

MY LORD DUKE,

IN forwarding the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1867, I have the honour to submit the following report upon its contents. I shall confine my remarks to the several subjects treated of in similar despatches of previous years, so as to make the present a continuation of the reports which accompanied the Blue Books of former years.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of last year amounted to 969,936*l.* 9*s.* 9¼*d.*, being in excess of that of 1866 (962,873*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*) by 7,062*l.* 15*s.* 10¼*d.* The following are the principal items of increase:—Imports, 9,627*l.*; exports, 2,657*l.*, attributable chiefly to the general increase in the trade of the Colony, but particularly to larger importations of grain in 1867 than in the preceding year. Stamps, 2,350*l.* Sale of Government property, 20,336*l.*; in this amount is included a sum of 12,334*l.*, the value of stores and provisions transferred to the Military Department. Reimbursements, 10,960*l.*, being the amount recovered from the municipalities of the expenses incurred by Government on account of the police establishments within the municipal towns, as also of expenses incurred in connexion with roads in the town of Kandy. Interest on public funds, 17,591*l.*, being the interest on the amount invested in Indian Government Securities.

3. The returns show, on the other hand, a decrease under some other heads, of which the following are the principal:—Land sales, 20,220*l.*, owing to the scarcity of money and the consequent reduced demand for land. Under the head of land revenue there was a decrease of 6,300*l.* in the item of paddy tax in the southern province, caused chiefly by injury to the crops from inundations; but there was a large general increase of revenue in the other provinces, owing to increased cultivation and plentiful harvests, and the net decrease under this head was 674*l.* The decrease on tolls under the head rents, exclusive of lands, amounting to 14,008*l.*, is the result of the opening of the railway which has absorbed a large portion of the traffic formerly carried on on the Kandy Road. To the same cause may be attributed the decrease of 13,846*l.* under the head of licences, arrack, rum, and toddy; the diminution in the cart traffic, and in the number of foot passengers consequent on the completion of the railway having necessarily affected the sale of arrack, and caused a want of competition for some of the principal arrack rents.

4. The total ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to 927,932*l.* 3*s.* 1½*d.* The excess of revenue over expenditure was therefore 42,004*l.* 6*s.* 7¾*d.* In addition to the above sum of 927,932*l.* there was a further expenditure on account of roads, streets, and bridges, and works, and buildings of 28,847*l.* charged against the balances of former years, and of 67,545*l.* under the Surplus Funds Ordinance.

5. As compared with the expenditure of the preceding year, that of 1867 shows an increase of 10,262*l.* Under the head of establishments there is an increase of 22,219*l.* caused chiefly by additions to the establishments of the Director of Public Works and the Surveyor-General, the Medical Department, the Police, and the establishments of the Fiscals in the several provinces. Under the head of pensions and retired allowances, the decrease of 2,564*l.* is owing to the transfer of the payment of the military pensions to the Imperial Government from the 1st July 1867. Under the head of police and gaols there is an increase of 3,452*l.*, owing to the heavy expenditure incurred by the Indian Government on account of convicts at Malacca, and also on account of the transport of criminal prisoners to the Straits. Under the head of works and buildings there is an increase of 2,640*l.*; whilst on roads, streets, and bridges there is a decrease of 30,020*l.* owing partly to the transfer to the Municipalities of Colombo, Kandy, and Galle of the expenditure for the upkeep of roads within the gravets of those towns, and

CEYLON.

partly to the reduced votes granted in 1867 for roads, a decrease which is however more than counterbalanced by the expenditure incurred in the year on this account from balances and surplus funds. The increase of 29,972*l.* under the head miscellaneous is chiefly attributable to heavy payments made on account of the survey of temple lands. There is an increase of 30,000*l.* under the head of contributions towards military expenditure; and a decrease of 2,870*l.* under the head of colonial pay and allowances, owing to the transfer to the Imperial Government from the 1st July 1867 of the payment of the allowances to military and staff officers. The decrease of 11,805*l.* under the head of Government vessels is explained by the fact that in consequence of the sale of the steamer "Pearl" in 1866, no expenditure was incurred last year on this account.

Assets and Liabilities.

6. From the return furnished by the Auditor-General of assets and liabilities, it will be seen that the total amount of assets at the commencement of the current year 1868 was 583,851*l.*, and that the liabilities amounted to 462,220*l.*, showing an apparent balance in favour of the Government of 121,630*l.* Amongst the assets are included a sum of 113,419*l.* on account of revenue debts outstanding, a portion of which only may be considered to be recoverable, and a sum of 6,179*l.* on account of surcharges, as also a sum of 571*l.* on account of advances. If the aggregate of these, amounting to 120,170*l.* be deducted from the assets, the net available balance will be 1,460*l.*, which corresponds with the amount given in the statement forwarded with Sir Hercules Robinson's Despatch, No. 121, of the 7th June last; and to that Despatch I beg to refer your Grace for an explanation of the large reduction in the apparent amount of the available balances, as compared with the amounts given in former statements.

7. Appended to the auditor's statement is a memorandum of railway liabilities, amounting to 1,307,595*l.*, on account of debentures sold in England for railway purposes and interest due thereon. As provision has been made to meet these charges from special funds, they are not included in the ordinary statement of liabilities.

Military Expenditure.

8. The total expenditure incurred by the Colony in 1867 on account of its military defence was 150,115*l.*, in which is included the colonial contribution of 130,000*l.* It includes also, besides the pay of the Governor's aide-de-camp and mounted orderlies, certain other charges, such as pay and allowances of colonial establishments, pensions to native troops, loss on rations and commissariat charges, which the Colony had to defray until the 30th June 1867, when the arrangements for the entire transfer of its military expenditure to the Imperial Government were completed.

9. As it is not competent for this Government, under the instructions contained in your Grace's Despatch No. 207, of the 26th November 1867, to apply for detailed accounts of the expenditure incurred by the War Department in connexion with the military service of Ceylon, it has not been practicable to furnish all the information required under the head of military expenditure, and some of the returns in the Blue Book are therefore left blank.

Imports and Exports.

10. The value of goods imported in 1867 was 3,612,298*l.*, showing an increase of 95,114*l.* as compared with that of 1866, which amounted to 3,517,184*l.* There was also an increase of 268,757*l.* in the exports, the value for the two years having been, 1866, 3,070,247*l.*, 1867, 3,339,004*l.*

11. These figures do not include the specie imported and exported, which was considerably less in 1867 than in the preceding year. The results, therefore, are different when these are added, and the total value of the imports and exports of 1867 then stands thus as compared with those of 1866:—

Imports.

1866	£4,961,061
1867	4,504,338
Decrease in 1867	£456,723

Exports.

1866	£3,586,453
1867	3,530,224
Decrease in 1867	£56,229

12. The total value of goods, exclusive of specie, imported and retained in the Colony during 1867 amounted to 3,162,604*l.*

Imports, exclusive of specie - -	£3,612,298
Deduct imports exported - - -	449,694
	£3,162,604

13. The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1867 amounted to 700,821*l.*

Specie imported - - -	£892,040
Do. exported - - -	191,219
	£700,821

14. The total value, therefore, of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1867 amounted to 3,863,425*l.*, as follows:—

Goods retained - - -	£3,162,604
Specie Do. - - - -	700,821
	£3,863,425

15. The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1867 amounted to 2,889,310*l.*, viz.:—

Exports, exclusive of specie - -	£3,339,004
Deduct imports exported - - -	449,694
	£2,889,310

16. The revenue derived from imports and exports in 1867 was 286,125*l.*, showing an increase of 11,905*l.* as compared with that of the preceding year, which amounted to 274,220*l.*

17. I append to this Despatch a return of Exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoanut oil, and coir for the the last ten years;

Return of the total value of Imports and Exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1865, 1866 and 1867; and

A statement of the number and tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared in the same years.

Public Works.

18. In addition to the Return of Public Works included among the Blue Book Returns, I forward the following documents required by Her Majesty's Government:—

Estimated Expenditure of the year 1868 under the usual heads of service, including the estimated Expenditure out of Surplus Funds.

Analytical Statement of Progress of Public Works borne on the Budget of 1867. Not printed.

Progress of Expenditure on Surplus Fund Ordinances from 1857 to 1867, and the Estimated Expenditure for 1868. Not printed.

Profit and Loss on Works undertaken as remunerative from 1857 to 1868.

Report on the Progress and Expenditure on Roads, and Receipts from Tolls for the year 1867. Not printed.

19. From the abstract attached to the Blue Book Returns furnished by the Director of Public Works, it will be seen that the total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 322,911*l.*, viz.:—

Government money - - -	£248,525
Commutation money paid in assessment for labour under the Road Ordinance, and private contributions - - -	37,754
Cost of Establishment - - -	36,632
	£322,911

20. As compared with 1866, the expenditure of 1867 shows an excess of 42,813*l.*

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21. The expenditure is divided under the following heads:—

	Government Money.	Road Ordinance Funds and Private Contributions.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Opening new roads	71,978 1 3½	17,566 5 0	89,544 6 3½
Upkeep of roads and canals	107,389 2 5	19,453 13 6½	126,842 15 11½
New bridges	32,353 17 9¾	- - -	32,353 17 9¾
Repair of bridges	4,438 1 0¾	- - -	4,438 1 0¾
New buildings	6,026 5 4¼	437 4 0	6,463 9 4¼
Repair of buildings	11,256 9 10½	221 8 0	11,477 17 10½
Drains	500 14 8½	- - -	500 14 8½
Ferry boats	348 6 11	- - -	348 6 11
General service	1,466 7 10¼	- - -	1,466 7 10¼
Miscellaneous services	12,383 0 3¾	45 0 0	12,428 0 3¾
Irrigation works	382 10 4½	31 6 4	415 16 8½
	248,524 17 11¾	37,754 16 10½	286,279 14 10¼
Cost of establishment			36,632 0 0
		£	322,911 0 0

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy.

Not printed. Not printed. 22. From the enclosed report of the Director of Public Works, it will be seen that these buildings are in a state of good repair. I enclose also the report of the Colonial Storekeeper on the state of the public furniture of these houses. A board of survey having condemned the furniture in the Pavilion at Kandy as being generally old, worn out, and unserviceable, a list of new furniture to replace that condemned was forwarded by Sir Hercules Robinson with his despatch, No. 165, of the 28th June last, with a view to steps being taken to procure in England the new articles required.

Surveying Department.

23. Sir Hercules Robinson, in forwarding the report of the Surveyor General for the year 1866, remarked that the depressed state of the money market in Europe had a material effect on land sales, especially as respects the purchases made by Europeans. This remark is equally applicable to the land sales in 1867, the sum realized from which was considerably less than in 1866.

24. The number of lots alienated from the Crown during the year was 7,141, and the acreage 26,923 at an average rate per acre of 1*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.*

25. The total sum realized by land sales amounted to 37,310*l.*, exclusive of fees, which amounted to 7,947*l.* The total sum in the previous year was 62,670*l.* by land sales, and 9,352*l.* from fees.

26. The following are the results of the sales of Crown lands in the different provinces, as compared with the sales in the preceding year:

	1866.			1867.		
	Extent sold.	Amount realized.	Rate per Acre.	Extent sold.	Amount realized.	Rate per Acre.
	Acres.	£	£ s. d.	Acres.	£	£ s. d.
Western province	9,448	24,005	2 10 7	18,421	21,989	1 3 10¾
Central „	8,003	13,429	1 13 7	2,787	3,876	1 7 9¾
Southern „	4,214	14,953	3 10 11½	1,284	3,767	2 18 8
Eastern „	3,418	5,934	1 14 8	2,387	4,467	1 17 5
North-western „	1,068	4,081	3 16 5	2,020	3,071	1 10 4¾
Northern „	156	267	1 14 5	24	139	5 16 8
	26,307	62,669		26,923	37,309	

27. The Surveyor General reports that the survey of temple lands has progressed satisfactorily, and that it may be said to be now completed. The number of acres

surveyed by the contractor during the year amounted to 223,997 acres, making the total extent surveyed by him from the commencement of his contract 368,650 acres. The sum paid to him during the year was 32,000*l.* CEYLON.

Electric Telegraph.

28. The Superintendent of Telegraphs in his Report on the working of the lines and offices during 1867 reports that the lines from Colombo to Galle were in the early part of the year in a very bad state, and that interruptions were of frequent occurrence. On the arrival of stores from England in July 1867, the construction of a new line was at once commenced, and the worst part, that from Berewela to Galle has been completed, and the remainder is in progress.

29. The line on the old Kandy Road has been dismantled, and an entirely new line has been constructed along the railway.

30. A new line has been constructed from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, a distance of 47 miles.

31. An entirely new line has been constructed betwen Kandy and Dambulla in order to have direct communication with Trincomalee. The old line from Kandy to Mannar has been thoroughly repaired, and all decayed posts removed.

32. The amount expended on the construction of new lines and the re-construction of old lines was 4,598*l.*

33. The total receipts of the year, including those of the Indo-European and the Indian lines, amounted to 23,512*l.*, of which the sum of 7,767*l.* is due to this Government. This shows a decrease of 1,083*l.* as compared with the receipts of the preceding year, which amounted to 8,850*l.*

34. The ordinary expenditure for working the lines in Ceylon amounted to 8,678*l.*, showing a loss, as compared with the receipts, of 911*l.*

35. With your Grace's despatch, No. 236, of the 26th December 1867, you forwarded copy of a letter from the Director-General of Indian Telegraphs, proposing that Ceylon should reduce its charges on European messages, with a view to its admission as a party to the Paris Telegraph Convention, or that India should take over and work the Ceylon telegraphs, and take upon itself whatever profit or loss might be the result. The latter proposal was assented to by the Ceylon Government under certain conditions. Those conditions have been accepted by the Government of India; and by your Grace's despatch, No. 138, of the 13th June last, you authorized this Government to complete the arrangement, which will be carried out from the 1st January next, at which date the Director-General of Telegraphs in India hopes to be able to take over the Ceylon lines.

Railway.

36. I enclose reports from the Director-General of the Ceylon Railway and the Traffic Manager and Engineer for the half-years ending 30th June and 31st December 1867. Not printed.

37. The railway from Colombo to Kandy was completed in October 1867, and the line fully opened for traffic on the first day of that month, although passengers and a limited quantity of goods had been carried for some time previously.

38. The Director-General of the railway reports that the cost of the line, exclusive of interest on debentures, and after making a fair deduction for the exceptional expenses incidental to the formation and dissolution of the late Company, amounts to 1,436,127*l.*, or about 19,148*l.* per mile, a cost which (in view of the rugged character of the country, the excessive unhealthiness of a large portion of it, and the fact that the labour for constructing the line was almost entirely imported) Mr. Molesworth states may be considered extremely moderate.

39. The total length of the line is 75 miles.

40. The Director-General reports that the railway has been well and substantially constructed, that the way and works have been kept in efficient repair, and that the permanent way is in excellent order.

41. At the break of the monsoon in the latter part of October 1867, the traffic was interrupted for a short time by heavy landslips. The slips were, however, soon cleared, and the communication restored in a few days.

42. The working of the line has been satisfactory, and the traffic has been greater than was expected for the first year.

43. The number of passengers carried during the year was 156,167, and the tonnage of goods was 54,850.

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44. The receipts from passengers and goods traffic amounted to 81,560*l.*, and the working expenses to 47,933*l.*, showing a profit of 33,627*l.* in the transactions of the year.

Legislation.

45. Twenty Ordinances were passed in the session of 1867, from Nos. 6 to 21 of 1867, and Nos. 1 to 4 of 1868, the last four having been enacted at the commencement of the present year. Nos. 1 to 5 of 1867 were passed in the session of 1866, and were noticed in Sir Hercules Robinson's despatch, No. 210, of the 14th September 1867.

No. 6 of 1867 provides for the appointment of commissioners to prepare a new edition of the local enactments, omitting therefrom such as have expired, or have been disallowed or repealed. The measure was necessary, as these enactments were scattered over three or four quarto volumes, and it was not always easy to distinguish between those which were in force and those which had been repealed or had expired.

Ordinance No. 7.—"For the more effectual protection of Her Majesty's naval and "victualling stores in this Island" was prepared in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government. It embodies the provisions of the Imperial Act 27 & 28 Vict. c. 91, with such modifications as were necessary to meet the circumstances of the Colony.

The provisions of Ordinance No. 8 "for the better protection of Government "property entrusted to the charge of pioneers, and for the apprehension of pioneer "deserters," are identical with those of the Ordinance No. 23 of 1865, which was disallowed by Her Majesty's Government because it authorized the infliction of corporal punishment on pioneers deserting with Government property. But in consequence of certain representations made by the head of the Public Works Department, Her Majesty's Government afterwards authorized the re-enactment of the measure, with the provision to which objection was at first taken.

No. 9 amends the Joint Stock Companies Ordinance, 1861, with a view to removing all doubt as to the legality of operations being carried on in Ceylon by companies which are incorporated in England, not only by special Act, but under the general Joint Stock Companies Act.

No. 10 amends the Fiscal's Ordinance, 1867, in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, so as to enable the fees to be paid by the suitors on account of process serving to be carried to the credit of the general revenue instead of being formed into a separate fund for the purpose of remunerating the officers in the Fiscal's Department.

Ordinance No. 11 of 1867 authorizes the expenditure of 25,000*l.* in addition to the 1,285,000*l.* already granted for railway construction purposes, in order to provide for certain engines and trucks required in consequence of traffic in excess of that originally contemplated.

Ordinance No. 12 "to provide for the military expenditure of the Colony" is in substitution of Ordinance No. 16 of 1864. It is based upon the recommendations contained in the Military Commission Report, and is in strict accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 13 provides for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1867.

No. 14 consolidates and amends the law in respect to the collection of tolls. In its main features it is the same as Ordinance No. 22 of 1861, the difference being chiefly in the clause relating to exemptions from the payment of toll, which in this Ordinance are limited to the Governor and his suite, and to the military when travelling on duty, whilst in the former Ordinance many other officers were included in the list of exemptions. No. 4 of 1868 was passed in connexion with this Ordinance, and it authorizes the collection of tolls at certain places which were not included in the Toll Ordinance of 1867.

No. 15, amending the Ordinance No. 6 of 1866, was brought forward in order to meet certain difficulties pointed out by the Registrar-General in respect to making copies of deeds to be registered under the Ordinance of 1866; and it authorizes the Governor, by proclamation, to dispense with the taking of exact copies of deeds in any districts in which it may not be convenient to carry out the measure in the mode contemplated by the Ordinance of 1866, and provides for the registration of only the substance of the deeds.

No. 16 authorizes a change in the designation of certain public officers, their former designations having been found to be inconvenient, and not applicable to existing circumstances.

No. 17, for the better prevention of contagious diseases, was passed in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, and will, it is hoped, prove to be an important sanitary measure.

No. 18 of 1867, relating to the registration of births and deaths, re-enacts the provisions of the Ordinance of 1862 on this subject, with a further provision for the registration of past births, in respect to which a difficulty was experienced on the measure being brought into operation in March 1867.

No. 19, to restrict the use of opium and bang, was rendered necessary in consequence of the increasing number of shops for the sale of these drugs, which were frequented by people of bad character, and which it was desirable to place under control. The Ordinance prohibits the possession by any person of opium beyond a limited quantity, and the sale of opium or bang without licence, except for medicinal purposes. The measure is only to be brought into operation in such places as the Governor shall from time to time appoint by Proclamation.

No. 20 legalizes certain marriages solemnised by an acting registrar, to whose appointment the sanction of the Governor was inadvertently not obtained at the time.

No. 21 is entitled "An Ordinance to promote the maintenance and extension of "paddy cultivation in this Island." The operation of the Irrigation Ordinance of 1856 and 1861 was limited respectively to five years, and in view of the expiration of the last-mentioned enactment at the end of 1867, it was necessary to bring forward a fresh Ordinance on the subject, re-enacting the provisions of the old Ordinance, with such amendments as the working of the measure had shown to be necessary or desirable. The Ordinance also contains certain new clauses to carry out the scheme adopted by the Legislative Council in respect to irrigation works.

No. 1 of 1868 provides for the contingent services of 1868.

No. 2 provides for the working expenses of the railway from the traffic receipts. It authorizes the expenditure incurred from the opening of the line in October 1865 to the 31st December 1867, and a further sum on account of the estimated expenditure for 1868.

No. 3 authorizes an alteration in one of the votes granted by the Ordinance No. 2 of 1867, providing for the appropriation of a portion of the surplus revenues of past years to works and services of acknowledged public utility.

Population.

46. The total population of all classes of inhabitants for 1867, including the military, is stated in the returns to be 2,054,861, showing an excess of 15,531 over the number given in the returns for 1860, viz., 2,039,330.

47. The following are stated to be the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths, viz.:—

Births - - - -	42,788
Marriages - - -	24,433
Deaths - - - -	44,224

48. These figures cannot be relied upon, but it is to be hoped that under the provisions of the Ordinance which has recently been passed by the Legislative Council (No. 5 of 1868 "for taking a census of this Island"), the Government will be enabled to obtain more accurate statistics of the population of the Island.

Public Health.

49. The principal civil medical officer, in his report for 1867, states that the prevailing diseases of the year have presented much the same type as those of former years, being chiefly fever, dysentery, and diarrhœa.

50. Cholera, which broke out in the northern province towards the close of 1866, assumed a very violent form in the early part of 1867, and spread very extensively, especially in the peninsula of Jaffna, causing great mortality amongst the population. A commission was appointed by Sir Hercules Robinson to inquire into the origin and progress of the disease, and their report was forwarded to your Grace with Sir H. Robinson's Despatch No. 243, of the 28th October 1867.

51. The number of cases of cholera in the northern province was 10,064, of which 6,862 proved fatal, showing a percentage of 67·83 to the number of attacks. The total number of cases in all the other provinces was only 63, with 42 deaths, or 66·6 per cent. Dr. Charsley states in his report, that the disease has now entirely disappeared from the Island.

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52. There were but few cases of smallpox in 1867; the total number in the whole Island being only 349, with 38 deaths; whilst in 1866 the number of cases was 1,035, and the number of deaths 101.

53. The returns of vaccination show that 65,015 individuals were vaccinated during 1867, against 65,496 in 1866. The successful cases are, however, reported to be 49,065 in 1867 against 47,686 in 1866.

Education.

54. I enclose a copy of the 24th Report of the School Commission for the period from 1st July 1866 to 30th June 1867, which gives a full account of the Government Schools up to the middle of last year.

55. The returns for 1867 show that there were 116 public schools, in which there were 6,549 pupils, showing an increase, as compared with the previous year, of one school and of 565 pupils.

56. The expenditure by the Government on account of education shows an increase of 476*l.*, the total amount expended during 1867 being 15,351*l.*

57. The receipts in 1867 under the head of fees amounted to 2,383*l.*, being an increase of 306*l.* as compared with the sum received in 1866.

58. The returns from the different missionary bodies show that whilst there was an increase in the number of schools supported by them, there was a decrease in the number of pupils attending them. The following is an abstract of these schools :—

	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel -	142	4,426
Church Missionary Society - - -	76	3,141
Wesleyan Missionary Society - -	100	1,163
Presbyterians - - - -	1	18
Baptist Missionary Society - -	13	597
American Missionary Society - -	55	1,986
Roman Catholic Missionary Society - -	84	1,236
	471	12,567

59. The numbers in 1866 were 357 schools, and 14,074 pupils.

60. The number of private schools in 1867 was 273, with an attendance of 5,413, showing an increase, as compared with 1866, of 63 schools and 964 pupils.

61. With his Despatch, No. 9, of the 14th January last, Sir Hercules Robinson forwarded to your Grace a copy of the report of the sub-committee of the Legislative Council appointed to inquire into, and report upon the state and prospect of education in the Island, and he stated the decision come to by the Government and the Legislative Council on the various recommendations of the sub-committee. I do not think it necessary to advert here in detail to all those recommendations ; but the most important of them which have been adopted by the Government, and which will effect a radical change in the system of public education in Ceylon are,—

1st. The appointment of a Director of Public Instruction in lieu of the existing School Commission, by whom the Educational Department has hitherto been administered.

2nd. The extension of vernacular schools eventually, if possible, to every village throughout the Island, for inparting primary education in the Sinhalese and Tamil languages.

3rd. The discontinuance of the connexion between the Queen's College and the Calcutta University, and the substitution in lieu thereof of the establishment of three English scholarships of the yearly value of 150*l.* each to last for three years.

4th. The establishment of classes of normal pupils to be trained as teachers, English classes in connexion with the Colombo Academy, and Native classes with the Industrial and Central schools.

5th. The extension of female education by the establishment of vernacular schools, and of girls' schools corresponding with the boys' mixed and central schools.

6th. The adoption of the system of grants-in-aid on the principle recognized in India.

62. By your Despatch, No. 200, of the 26th August last, your Grace has approved of the changes proposed, and the new scheme will be carried out on the arrival of a Director of Public Instruction from England. A vote for 20,020*l.* will be taken in the Supply Bill for next year to meet the expenses of the new system.

63. Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a table, giving a statistical view of the progress of this Colony for the years 1821 to 1867 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1866 and 1867, prepared in the form suggested by the International Statistical Congress at the meeting held in London in 1860.

64. I do not send the reports of the several heads of departments referred to in this Despatch, as it has been decided by Sir Hercules Robinson that these reports should be printed and laid before the Legislative Council. A complete copy of these reports will be hereafter forwarded to your Grace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STUDHOLME HODGSON.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

DECENNIAL RETURN of Exports of Coffee, Cinnamon, Cocoanut Oil, and Coir, the Produce of the Colony.

Years.	Coffee.			Cinnamon.			Cocoanut Oil.			Coir.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	
	Cwts.	£	£	Lbs.	£	£	Gallons.	£	£	Cwts.	£	£	£
1858 - -	554,507	1,337,122	27,226	750,744	37,537	751	777,162	77,716	1,949	40,420	32,419	511	30,437
1859 - -	589,779	1,467,497	29,490	879,361	43,972	880	1,118,638	111,864	2,985	38,086	25,945	447	33,802
1860 - -	620,132	1,574,033	31,007	675,156	33,758	675	1,549,089	154,909	3,890	36,616	24,864	458	36,030
1861 - -	648,026	1,656,733	32,402	845,218	42,261	845	1,040,428	104,043	2,613	43,168	31,883	540	36,400
1862 - -	605,178	1,445,284	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3 591	46,595	37,648	583	35,309
1863 - -	828,587	2,126,222	41,429	734,038	36,702	734	1,878,585	187,858	4,718	51,785	39,103	647	47,528
1864 - -	671,164	1,744,793	33,559	776,675	38,833	775	2,249,402	224,948	5,649	36,313	27,386	454	40,437
1865 - -	927,440	2,343,532	46,373	850,973	42,549	852	1,176,784	120,678	2,955	41,378	31,637	516	50,696
1866 - -	897,624	2,286,880	44,882	890,484	44,524	890	1,042,853	104,400	2,619	46,687	33,035	594	48,935
1867 - -	943,592	2,430,536	47,180	1,017,750	50,887	1,018	1,345,485	134,548	3,379	49,675	34,446	621	52,198
Total -	7,286,029	18,412,632	363,807	8,295,874	414,797	8,296	13,607,957	1,363,917	34,348	430,723	318,366	5,371	411,822

Customs, Colombo, 4th June 1868.

(Signed) W. D. WRIGHT,
for Acting Principal Collector.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including Specie and Bullion) from each Country in each of the Years 1865, 1866, and 1867.

Countries.	Imports.									Exports.								
	1865.			1866.			1867.			1865.			1866.			1867.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	904,255	3	10	1,390,687	12	5	1,350,311	19	11	2,420,056	5	10	2,385,126	9	10	2,556,188	9	8
Cape of Good Hope.	103	10	0	—			—			348	9	6	50	0	0	1,356	6	9
Mauritius -	20,633	10	0	29,921	9	6	18,006	13	5	21,175	16	0	25,735	0	6	6,517	17	6
Aden - -	39	11	5	47	18	10	—			20	2	0	—			73	19	11
British Possessions in India.	3,486,106	16	10	2,746,439	18	1	2,595,259	12	10	961,013	6	0	920,577	12	0	797,174	4	2
Hong Kong -	6,064	0	7	9,828	5	0	7,668	12	10	3,708	10	0	2,108	14	6	232	5	0
Australia -	330,841	8	8	520,340	16	1	281,141	15	9	37,048	17	0	41,813	8	3	32,612	9	6
Gibraltar -	—			—			—			14,649	12	0	18,072	12	8	20,623	0	9
St. Helena -	5	0	0	—			—			—			—			—		
France - -	512	17	9	—			173	0	0	47,306	5	11	19,039	16	0	34,682	8	10
Buenos Ayres	4	9	3	198	6	0	—			—			—			—		
Suez - -	85,007	3	1	74,377	15	6	43,434	9	5	1,076	10	0	73,283	15	7	10,952	7	9
Maldive Islands	31,129	1	6	29,788	17	1	44,531	1	6	6,078	12	5	4,255	9	3	9,074	5	1
French Possessions in India.	136,518	1	8	150,557	11	0	152,343	0	2	12,327	7	5	22,114	19	7	24,846	4	8
United States of America.	12,803	16	1	8,860	0	0	7,297	6	10	40,347	7	4	73,675	7	0	33,945	8	10
Macoa -	1,771	10	4	—			—			—			—			—		
Bolivia -	6,035	5	11	—			—			—			—			—		
Madagascar -	347	17	10	—			—			—			—			—		
Muscat -	—			12	0	0	—			—			—			—		
Bourbon -	—			2	0	0	—			—			—			—		
Juddah -	—			—			1,031	15	6	—			—			—		
Dutch Possessions in India.	—			—			3,139	8	6	—			600	6	10	1,945	5	0
	5,022,179	4	9	4,961,061	9	6	4,504,338	16	8	3,565,157	1	5	3,586,453	12	0	3,530,224	13	5

Customs, Colombo, 4th June 1868.

(Signed) W. D. WRIGHT,
for Acting Principal Collector.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

NUMBER and TONNAGE of Vessels entered Inwards and cleared Outwards from and to each Country, in each of the Years 1865, 1866, and 1867.

	Compared with 1865.					Compared with 1866.				
	Inwards.		Outwards.			Inwards.		Outwards.		
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1867 -	3,171	589,804	3,199	606,961	1867 - -	3,171	589,804	3,199	606,961
1865 - -	3,289	577,022	3,326	573,818	1866 - -	3,240	583,303	3,304	599,022
	Decrease, 118	Increase, 12,782	Decrease, 127	Increase, 33,143		Decrease, 69	Increase, 6,501	Decrease, 105	Increase, 7,939

Customs, Colombo, 4th June 1868. (Signed) W. D. WRIGHT, for Acting Principal Collector.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

STATEMENT showing the estimated expenditure of the year 1868 under the usual heads of service, including the estimated expenditure out of surplus funds.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fixed salaries - - - - - -	178,897	7	6			
Provisional salaries - - - - - -	126,287	8	2			
Allowances - - - - - - -	6,145	6	4			
Office contingencies - - - - - -	20,848	1	4			
				332,178	3	4
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities - - - -				35,790	8	11¾
Revenue, services exclusive of establishments - - - -				21,249	12	10
Administration of justice do. - - - -				6,186	6	0
Ecclesiastical - - - - - - -				400	0	0
Charitable allowance - - - - - -				4,744	0	0
Education, exclusive of establishment - - - -				1,981	0	0
Hospital do. - - - - -				13,756	8	0
Police and gaols do. - - - -				16,569	14	0
Rent - - - - - - -				3,562	16	0
Transport - - - - - - -				23,190	18	0
Conveyance of mails - - - - -				8,029	11	6
Works and buildings - - - - -				27,448	0	0
Roads, streets, and bridges - - - - -				204,131	14	10
Miscellaneous services - - - - -				25,899	7	4
Interest - - - - - - -				261	7	6
Colonial store - - - - - - -				41,075	18	0
Contribution towards military expenditure - - - -				160,000	0	0
Colonial pay and allowances - - - -				1,592	5	8
Refund of duties, drawbacks, &c. - - - -				358	5	9
Lands taken for Government purposes - - - -				1,100	0	0
Immigration - - - - - -				6,138	4	0
Inquiry into the cultivation of the pearl oyster - -				1,500	0	0
Electric telegraph - - - - - -				780	0	0
Railway liabilities - - - - - -				50,000	0	0
				987,924	1	8¾

Out of surplus funds.

	£	s.	d.
For constructing a railway between Colombo and Kandy, balance remaining unexpended on the sum of 250,000*l.* voted under the Ordinance, No. 3. of 1864 - -	97	15	6¾

Under the Ordinance No. 2 of 1867.

For the construction of the portion of the road from Haputalé to Badulla between the 9th and 24th mile posts - -	1,002	0	0
For cutting out and metalling the road from the Teldenirja bridge to the Galmal Oya bridge - - - -	2,811	0	0
For constructing a road from Badulla to Batticaloa - -	46,522	0	0
For the improvement of the Manditivoe channel - -	1,012	0	0
For the improvement of the inland navigation - - -	7,626	0	0
For irrigation works - - - - - -	9,990	0	0

Carried forward - - -

	£	s.	d.			
Brought forward - - -						
For connecting Galle with Akuresse by means of a principal road and for building large bridges between Akuresse and Morawa Korle - - - - - - - -	23,219	0	0			
For erecting a bridge over the Kalu gange at Ratnapura and its approaches - - - - - - - -	4,118	0	0			
For constructing a bridge over the Né Ganga at Yattiantota	316	0	0			
For constructing a bridge over the Dederu Oya - - -	3,220	0	0			
For erecting an iron lattice bridge over the Palampootaar near Tincomalie - - - - - - -	4,500	0	0			
For erecting an iron lattice bridge over the Misrigainga Oya	2,498	0	0			
				106,931	15	6¾
				£1,094,855	17	3½

Audit Office, Colombo, February 18, 1869.

(Signed) R. CALLANDER, Auditor General.

Enclosure 5 in No. 1.

STATEMENT showing the Profit or Loss on Works undertaken as remunerative.

	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Profit.	Loss.
Electric Telegraph, as per accompanying detailed Statement, No. 1	100,586	61,542	—	39,044
Survey Department do. do. „ 2	297,349	70,998	—	226,351
Irrigation do. do. „ 3	51,380	25,388	461	26,453
£	449,315	157,928	461	291,848

Audit Office, Colombo, 9th March 1868.

(Signed) R. CALLANDER, Auditor General.

Enclosure 6 in No. 1.

CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMISSION.—REPORT.

The Central School Commission have the honour to submit to the Legislative Council their Report for the past year (July 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867).

Statistics of education.

2. On the 31st December 1866 there were 111 Government schools in operation, which had on their rolls at that date 5,894 pupils, with an average attendance, during the year, of 4,596. This shows an increase of 8 schools, and of 603 pupils, as compared with the year 1865. Of these the greater number are Vernacular schools in populous villages of the Western Province. Several other applications for similar schools are only awaiting the report of the Sub-Inspector or the erection of a School-house, the latter being a condition which the Commission require in every instance as a test of the sincerity of the applicants.

Period of attendance.

3. The per-centage of scholars, who, at the close of the year 1866, had attended the same Government school for periods varying from less than one year to more than five years, is as follows:

Less than one year.	One year, and less than two years.	Two years, and less than three years.	Three years, and less than four years.	Four years, and less than five years.	Five years, and upwards.
44·79	22·27	13·31	8·43	5·15	6·02

Age of pupils.

4. Per-centage of children of the different ages from "under five" to "over fifteen" in the different classes of schools.

SCHOOLS.	Under Five Years.	Between Five and Six Years.	Between Six and Seven Years.	Between Seven and Eight Years.	Between Eight and Nine Years.	Between Nine and Ten Years.	Between Ten and Eleven Years.	Between Eleven and Twelve Years.	Between Twelve and Thirteen Years.	Between Thirteen and Fourteen Years.	Between Fourteen and Fifteen Years.	Over Fifteen Years.
Colombo Academy - -	—	—	·66	—	1·98	1·65	5·28	6·27	10·56	10·23	13·53	49·83
Superior Schools - - -	—	—	—	1·29	3·01	3·45	3·88	6·89	13·36	11·63	12·93	43·53
English Schools - -	·48	·81	2·10	5·66	6·95	11·00	11·32	14·24	9·54	10·51	10·51	16·82
Mixed Schools - - -	·20	1·66	3·61	4·94	7·72	7·99	10·92	10·50	11·54	9·80	8·20	22·87
Vernacular Schools - -	·48	2·47	6·11	12·83	15·25	14·81	14·28	11·65	8·66	6·43	3·72	3·27
Superior Girls' Schools - -	1·46	7·63	9·09	7·63	12·00	9·82	15·63	10·54	12·00	6·90	4·36	2·91
Mixed Girls' Schools - -	2·57	11·58	16·31	14·16	12·44	13·73	10·73	7·72	5·58	·86	3·00	1·28
Vernacular Girls' Schools -	4·00	6·46	14·46	14·46	18·15	13·23	10·76	10·46	4·92	2·15	·61	·30
Total -	·69	2·69	5·56	8·94	11·28	11·26	12·01	10·90	9·56	7·65	6·22	13·20

CEYLON.

Increase of expenditure in 1866, as compared with 1865.

5. The expenditure on account of education during the year 1866 amounted to 14,875*l.* 5*s.* 1¾*d.*, showing an increase of 201*l.* 12*s.* 0¾*d.* as compared with 1865, when the expenditure was 14,673*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

Expenditure, 1862–1866.

6. The following table will show the amount voted, and the amount expended, on account of education during each of the last five years.

Years.	Voted. £	s.	d.	Expended. £	s.	d.
1862	16,674	6	3	14,099	7	6¾
1863	15,306	8	0	14,520	3	7
1864	16,298	18	3	15,331	12	3¾
1865	17,389	3	9	14,673	13	1
1866	17,339	2	8	14,875	5	1¾

Estimate for 1868.

7. The sum of 17,872*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.* was voted for the current year, and the educational estimate for 1868 amounts to 18,330*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.*

School fees.

8. The amount realized by school fees in 1866 was 2,077*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.*, to which must be added 77*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.*, being receipts on account of stationery, showing an increase in the receipts from schools in 1866, as compared with 1865, of 115*l.* 7*s.* 4½*d.*, and as compared with 1864, of 15*l.* 8*s.* 3¾*d.*

Colombo Industrial School.

9. The Commission regret that in consequence of the prolonged absence of the Rev. J. Thurstan on leave, they have been unable to take any steps toward the resuscitation of the Colombo Industrial School. The Vernacular School attached to it has however been continued, and the house and grounds have been kept in order, under the supervision of the Government agent.

Galle Central and Mixed Schools.

10. At the beginning of the present year the Galle Central and Mixed Schools were, upon the recommendation of the Inspector, formed into one Institution, under the supervision of Mr. J. Anthonisz, head teacher of the Central School, and a class of 10 pupil teachers was attached to it, instead of the two, who had just completed their course of instruction, and been appointed to assistant teacherships under the Commission.

Jaffna Girls' School.

11. Miss Gray, Head Teacher of the Jaffna Girls' School, having proceeded to England on leave of absence for six months, her place has been ably supplied by Mrs. Koch, an English trained teacher, whose services the Commission were fortunate in securing on the spot.

Grants-in-aid.

12. The amount of grants made to private and other schools during the year 1866 is 791*l.* The Roman Catholic Boys' Schools at Trincomalee and Chilaw have been added to the number of Grant-in-aid Schools.

New schools.

13. Since the date of the last report the following Schools have been opened:—a Boys' Mixed School at Akuramboda; a Boys' Mixed School at Katugastota; a Girls' Mixed School at Hambantota; a Boys' Vernacular School at Kandaliyadda Paluwa; a Boys' Vernacular School at Biyagama; a Boys' Vernacular School at Tantirimulla; a Boys' Vernacular School at Maturata; a Boys' Vernacular School at Kattuwa; a Boys' Vernacular School at Wádduwa. The following schools have been closed:—the Kollupitiya Girls' School, the Vernacular Boys' and Girls' Schools at Kottáwa, the Paranagama Vernacular Boys' School; and the following temporarily closed:—the Puttalam Boys' Mixed School, and the Udatenna Boys' Mixed School.

Turnour prize.

14. There were two candidates for the Turnour prize in 1866, but as the Examiners reported that neither of them was deserving of it, the prize was not awarded. Upon the suggestion of the acting inspector, certain alterations have been made in the programme of the examination, which, it is hoped, will render it a more searching test of the real merits of the candidates.

Local examination.

15. The Examiner's report of the fifth local examination, held under the Government notification of the 26th November 1861, will be found in the Appendix.

Calcutta University.

16. The result of the last examination at Queen's College and the Colombo Academy in connexion with the University of Calcutta was as follows:—Messrs. Weeresooria and Jayesinhe were placed in the first division, and Messrs. Moorugayah and A. Silva in the second division.

Inspection.

17. The inspector's reports with the accompanying tables give every information as to the state of the Central, English, and Mixed Schools in all the Provinces.

Members.

18. The Rev. A. P. Lovekin and the Rev. A. Young have been appointed as members of the Commission in the room of the Rev. G. Schrader and the Rev. C. Merson.

19. Mr. Sendall, the inspector of schools, having proceeded to England on a year's leave of absence, Mr. Steward, of Queen's College, was appointed to act for him, his place being supplied by Mr. Britto, a former student of the college, who had proceeded to his B.A. degree in the University of Calcutta, and had been for some time employed in an important educational institution in India.

20. The thanks of the Commission are due to the Sub-Committees of Kandy, Galle, and other stations, and to several official and private superintendents, for their valuable aid in reference to the schools in which they have respectively interested themselves.

21. Financial and statistical returns, similar to those appended to the last report, will be found in the Appendices.

WILLIAM CHAS. GIBSON,
President.
J. BROOKE H. BAILEY,
Secretary.

HONG KONG.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, C.B. to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 584.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Hong Kong, October 5, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1867, and late as is the period at which I transmit it, it is only due to the staff in the Colonial Secretary's office to state that it was received by me last May, and it is solely owing to a somewhat protracted illness from which I had suffered, and the pressure of the daily work of administration, that I have not transmitted it earlier.

Notwithstanding the great length at which I commented on the Blue Book returns for the previous year (1866), transmitted in my despatch, No. 384, of last year, there is very much in the returns now transmitted which invite comment and explanation. I only regret that I am unable by this opportunity to find time to give the explanations which I should wish. I shall, therefore, reserve them till next year, when, if I shall then be here, I can do better justice to the subject.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, Governor.

LABUAN.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor POPE HENNESSY to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 57.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Labuan, November 18, 1868.

1. IN forwarding to your Grace the Blue Book for 1867 I avail myself of the opportunity of giving a brief description of the Colony of Labuan.

Position.

2. The tenth article of the Treaty between the late Sultan of Borneo and Her Majesty the Queen defines the limits of the Colony. That article says:—

"It being desirable that British subjects should have some port where they may "careen and refit their vessels, and where they may deposit such stores and merchan- "dise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of their trade with the dominions of "Borneo, His Highness the Sultan hereby confirms the cession already spontaneously "made by him in 1845 of the Island of Labuan, situated on the north-west coast of "Borneo, together with the adjacent islets of Kuraman, Little Rusakan, Great Rusakan, "Daat, and Malankasan, and all the straits, islets, and seas situated half way between "the fore-mentioned islets and the mainland of Borneo; likewise the distance of ten "geographical miles from the Island of Labuan to the westward and northward, and "from the nearest point half way between the islets of Malankasan and the mainland of "Borneo in a line running north till it intersects a line extended from west to east, "from a point ten miles to the northward of the northern extremity of the Island of "Labuan, to be possessed in perpetuity and sovereignty by Her Britannic Majesty and "Her successors; and in order to avoid occasions of difference which might otherwise "arise, His Highness the Sultan engages not to make any similar cession, either of an "island or of any settlement on the mainland, in any part of his dominions to any other "nation, or to the subjects or citizens thereof, without the consent of Her Britannic "Majesty."

LABUAN.

3. The Colony is in longitude 115° 19′ E., and latitude 5° 14′ N., so that it lies to the east of a line drawn from Hong Kong to the western coast of Australia, and is about 314 miles north of the equator.

4. The islet of Malankasan, the nearest portion of the Colony to the great Island of Borneo, is only half a mile from the mainland; but Victoria Harbour, Labuan, is about four miles further off.

5. Brunei, the capital of Borneo, and the residence of the Sultan, is about thirty miles from Labuan.

6. The Colony occupies a central position with reference to the chief emporiums of commerce in the East. It is between the Phillipine Islands and the Dutch possessions, being about 650 miles from Manilla and 900 miles from Batavia. It is 1,000 miles to the south of Hong Kong and 1,900 to the north of Western Australia. It is 707 miles from Singapore and 600 miles from the French Colony of Saigon.

Size.

7. Labuan is about the same size as St. Helena but somewhat smaller, being only 45 square miles in area; it is, however, larger than Hong Kong, Bermuda, Gambia, Gibraltar, or Heligoland.

In shape it is a sort of obtuse-angled triangle; the base, or furthest side from the Island of Borneo, being a straight coast line 11 miles in length, running N.E. and S.W., the other two sides being about six or seven miles in length. The south-eastern coast line presents two indentations; one, a semicircular shallow bay, three miles in width, and the other, the safe anchorage of Victoria Harbour. The eastern side of the Island forms a shallow bay, almost filled with coral reefs and sand banks. The road from Victoria Harbour to Coal Point runs close to this coast.

Soil and other Physical Features.

8. Little or nothing has been written on the physical geography of Labuan, and in addition to my own superficial observations, I must ask your Grace to rely mainly on the more valuable notes of Mr. Motley, who was manager to the Coal Company many years ago, and who was one of the few men of science who have made any practical remarks on the geological phenomena of the Island.

9. In the edition for this year of Bradshaw's Overland Route to the East, Labuan is described as having an elevation of only 70 feet above the level of the sea; and in one of the early descriptions given by Sir James Brooke, the first governor, a similar statement is made.

10. But the fact is, the highest land has an elevation of about 350 feet, and the tops of the trees on the two northern ridges are stated by Captain Reed, in his China Sea Directory, published this year, to be about 460 feet above the level of the sea.

11. These two narrow ridges are about three miles in length, and, for the greater part, of a uniform height, descending quite abruptly on the south side, so that one can look down upon the tops of the tallest trees in the forest beneath; on the other side the ridge slopes away gently to the north.

12. The largest of these ridges commences at Kubong Bluff, in a cliff 80 feet high, and after rising sharply to 300 feet, crosses the Island in a S.S.W. direction to Luke Point, where it meets the sea in a cliff 100 feet high.

13. The second ridge is somewhat higher, though less regular than the first. It commences at Tanjong Kubong, a few hundred yards to the North of Kubong Bluff, and runs parallel to it.

14. Between these two ridges are the argillaceous strata containing the upper section of the coal seams; and between them, in the western valley, about half a mile from the coast, the petroleum springs are found.

15. Looking towards the south from the Kubong Bluff and Luke Point ridge, the central portion of the Island is visible. It consists mainly of a rich alluvial plain of valuable land, about 12,000 acres in extent.

16. Ten years ago this was hidden by the primeval forest; but now, owing to the Kadyan clearings, it is covered with doab grass, and dotted here and there with a homestead surrounded by paddy fields and fruit gardens.

17. The clearing has, however, been done in the rudest manner, and the ground is still to some extent encumbered with half-burned trunks of gigantic trees.

18. When Mr. Motley compiled his notes in 1851, he calculated that the marshy swamps occupied about one-ninth of the whole island. At that time they were very unhealthy and almost impassable. But, owing to the recent clearings in the centre and

the drainage towards the south-east, many of these swamps have now become in the hands of the Kadyans extremely productive.

19. Including the plain just mentioned, the surface of the island may be described as consisting of three varieties of soil. The first, covering about three-fourths of the whole island, is a fine and deep yellow loam, well adapted for nearly all tropical productions. This soil, from an intermixture of sand and particles of oxide of iron, is not liable to become so hard and parched in the dry season as commonly happens to most of the soils of India. This soil also covers the broken spurs and deep ravines which are very numerous between the central plain and the coast. These ravines occasionally render surveying and road making extremely difficult.

20. The second variety of soil is to be found along the coast, being a sandy acccumulation of recent shells and corals, and the third consists of tracts of peat and white sand, at a higher elevation, similar to those found upon the sandstone hills in England. The latter, which are the only valueless soils in the Island, are not of any extent, except at the south-east angle, where they run for about two miles along the shore in an irregular band of about a mile in width. This tract, so valueless for agricultural purposes, was the first part of the Island originally selected as the site of the settlement, and it was the first extensive clearing. Its proximity to the harbour no doubt accounts for this selection, which probably retarded to some extent the early progress of the Colony. The Kadyans, an agricultural race from the neighbourhood of Brunei, did not commit a similar mistake, they knew where to find the good land, and when they immigrated to Labuan they went direct to the central plain.

21. In the estimates for 1869 I have made provision for the cost of a main road and branch roads through this plain.

The Coal.

22. Of the geological phenomena of Labuan, the most remarkable is the coal formation. In a recent report to the directors of the Oriental Coal Company, Mr. Lumsden, the manager, describes the Island as being built up of a great mass of coal measures, incorporated with the new red sandstone, and forming an elevated segment of a large coal basin, the two ends and opposite sides of which extend into the sea.

23. Seven seams or outcrops of coal have been discovered, ranging from one foot and a half to eleven feet in thickness. These seams are arranged in two well-defined groups, separated by the high ridges of sandstone and conglomerate rocks already referred to. Mr. Lumsden calls these groups "upper" and "lower" in relation to the sandstone. The smaller division of the Island situated north of the ridges contains the upper section, and the larger division, south of the ridges, contains the lower section.

24. The upper section consists of four seams of coal, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 in a descending order. Nos. 2 and 3 are, in Mr. Lumsden's opinion, too thin to work with any profit at present. Nos. 1 and 4 are respectively 4 feet and 11 feet thick. No. 4 seam lies immediately over the sandstone which forms the high ridge. The strike of the strata is from east to west, in which direction it must be 4,000 yards in length of Nos. 1 and 4 seams with an aggregate thickness of 15 feet of clean coal. The dip or inclination of strata is to the north at an angle of about 30 degrees.

25. All the mining operations have hitherto been confined to this section and the working of Nos. 1 and 4 seams.

26. The lower section embraces three outcrops of coals four feet thick each, but they have never been proved in depth. The strike of the strata on this south side of the ridge is from N.E. to S.W., so that within the compass of the Island there must be at least 7,000 yards in length of the three seams measuring in the aggregate 12 feet thick. The inclination of the strata is to the N.W., and ranges from 30 to as high as 70 degrees. One of the seams in this section has been traced to within 2,000 yards of Victoria Harbour, and as the outcrop is in that direction, it is possible that this coal may be got close to the town and convenient for shipping.

27. The coal field is therefore of the length and breadth of the Island, in two sections, the upper section containing two workable seams and the lower section three workable seams of coal, being five seams in all of an aggregate thickness of 27 feet. Mr. Lumsden thinks it quite safe to estimate the length of this thickness of coal at two miles, which leaves more than the usual allowance for wants, faults, and waste. Taking the workable depth at from 100 fathoms to 150 fathoms vertically, this gives on the slope or inclination of the measures a breadth of at least 600 yards. These dimensions represent a mass of coal 20,000,000 tons in weight, which is equal to an output of 100,000 tons of coal a year for 200 years. Mr. Lumsden states that there is a supply in the upper section alone for

LABUAN.

50 years at the rate of 200,000 tons a year. Thus, for all practical purposes, the Labuan coal fields may be regarded as inexhaustible.

28. As far as the upper section of coal has been explored, it appears to be comparatively free of disturbing faults. The strata continue regular and preserve nearly unchanged their strike and angle of inclination, the coal maintaining a uniform depth, thickness, and quality. There is no mining difficulty to contend with.

29. Mr. Lumsden notices another favourable circumstance in the Labuan colliery—that there are no noxious gases to trouble the miners. There is neither fire-damp nor choke-damp, and the ventilation is as untainted as if the coal were got in an open quarry. In going down the shaft and visiting the workings I have always found the ventilation good.

30. A small volume of air properly coursed keeps the mines comparatively cool and fresh. It is worth remarking, that while the temperature of English mines ranges above the heat at the surface, the underground workings in Labuan are considerably cooler than the atmosphere on the pit bank, so much so, that in the heat of the day it is a most agreeable change to a person habituated to mining to go underground.

31. As to the financial results of working the coal, I venture to recapitulate some facts I had the honour to lay before your Grace in Despatch No. 28, of 1868.

32. The following figures exhibit an approximate statement of the amount of coal raised at the Labuan collieries, and a statement of the local expenses since the first company was formed :—

EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO COMPANY.

	Coal raised.		Salaries and Expenses.		
	Tons.	Cwt.	£	s.	d.
1850	1,167	0	1,845	16	6
1851	797	0	2,954	10	10
1852	4,480	0	4,833	7	7
1853	6,569	0	10,960	7	2
1854	9,427	0	19,414	5	1
1855	5,208	0	12,946	13	2
1856	3,527	0	13,642	0	0
1857	313	0	5,022	0	0
	31,488	0	71,619	0	4
	LABUAN COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.				
1860	-	-	1,418	7	3
1861	40	0	8,905	12	5
1862	3,255	0	7,486	1	2
1863	10,882	0	12,157	15	6
1864	15,889	0	16,736	13	2
1865	6,270	0	9,882	8	6
1866	7,971	0	19,555	14	7
1867	7,074	0	10,800	7	2
	51,981	0	86,942	19	9

33. Thus, since 1850, the total quantity of coal raised has been 80,642 tons.

34. The cost of production has been far more than 2*l.* per ton, for the salaries and expenses at Labuan alone have amounted to 158,562*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, and to this must be added the home salaries and expenses, of which, since the year 1857, I can find no record here.

35. From 1850 to 1857 the home salaries and expenses amounted to 11,243*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

36. During the whole of the period from 1850 to May 1868, the average receipts, deducting commissions for brokers, did not exceed 1*l.* per ton.

37. The old companies have therefore lost at least 1*l.* per ton on every ton of coal raised.

38. I venture to think that this is mainly owing to the cause to which I presumed to direct your Grace's atttention in my Despatch No. 42 of 1867, namely, the total failure of the coolie immigration.

39. Thousands of coolies have been brought to this Island and sent back again to China at the cost of the company, and a large per-centage of these so-called labourers have been unable or unwilling to do a single day's work.

40. The manager of the old company who preceded Mr. Morel, Mr. Sinclair, informed me that during his time one thousand coolies were thus brought to the mines, but that only twenty of these men did a fair day's work,—such a day's work, he said, as he saw the ordinary Labuan convicts performing in the road gangs.

41. To the inordinate cost of production under this extravagant system must be added the lavish expenditure upon the European staff at the collieries.

42. The manager and his subordinates have been paid salaries actually greater than the salaries of the Governor of the Colony and his officials.

43. In addition to his salary, a large sum was annually appropriated to the manager of the mines as a "table allowance," and the naval, military, and civil officers stationed in the Island had the benefit of a constant series of expensive entertainments.

44. Probably these two causes alone had quadrupled the real cost of production.

45. I am happy to say that the long standing difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of coal hewers, and the extravagant system of working the mines, are no longer in existence.

46. In sanctioning the introduction of convicts from the Straits Settlements, Her Majesty's Government have solved the labour question.

47. Convict labour is now used to the exclusion of all free labour on the public works of the Colony, and this free labour is at the disposal of the manager of the mines.

48. In loading ships with coal, and in overground working at the colliery, the convicts are also employed, with your Grace's sanction, whenever the manager requires such labour.

49. This system is of mutual financial advantage to the colliery and the Government.

50. I had the satisfaction of reporting to your Grace, in Despatch No. 31 of the 7th of July 1868, that the pay sheets of the colliery for the month of June showed a balance of profit after paying all expenses, being the first profit obtained at the mines for nearly twenty years.

51. I have gone through the colliery accounts for the subsequent months up to the 7th of this month (November 1868), and I find that this profit has gone on steadily increasing every month.

52. The yield last month was 723 tons, and all the working expenses here of obtaining this coal absorb less than sixty per cent. of the money received for it.

53. The average selling price of the coal at Labuan has been of late $6.90 per ton.

54. As to the quality of the coal now raised by the Oriental Coal Company, I have the honour to refer your Grace to my Despatch, No. 53, of the 17th of October 1868.

General Trade.

55. In Despatches No. 8 and No. 10 of February, and No. 46 of October 1868, I pointed out the general prosperity and commercial progress of Labuan, irrespective of the coal trade.

Finance.

56. The financial condition of the Colony has been noticed in my observations to the Legislative Council in closing the session of 1868. (Despatch No. 56. of the 20th of October 1868.)

Public Health.

57. The sanitary state of the Colony has been much improved of late. The extensive clearings made by the Kadyans, the drainage operations, and certain improvements at the barracks have contributed to this result.

Climate, &c.

58. The climate of Labuan closely resembles that of the warm summer months in the south of Ireland. The temperature is far lower than in most of the Queen's eastern dominions. It varies very little during the year, the extreme changes being from 71° to 90°. Its insular condition, its proximity to the highest mountain ranges in Borneo, and its relation to the equatorial cloud ring, no doubt account for the remarkable fact that the rain generally falls at night. The rain-fall for the last three years has been:—1865, 146 inches; 1866, 166 inches; and 1867, 166 inches.

59. The perpetual verdure of the island, its numerous stately trees and flowering shrubs, and the luxurious foliage of the adjacent islets, render Labuan extremely

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beautiful. It has the reputation of possessing the finest fruit in the east. For oranges, pummellos, mangoes, and mangosteens it is said to be unrivalled; and the pine apple, bananas, lansets, and other varieties of fruit are cultivated in abundance.

Population.

60. The population is mainly composed of the Chinese settlers and the Kadyans; and they may be truly described as constituting a most industrious and peaceful community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 4

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to his Grace the DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(Separate).

MY LORD DUKE, Mauritius, August 11, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Statistical Returns forming the annual Blue Book of Mauritius for 1867.

2. To comment on them is to perform a painful duty, so strongly do they testify in various ways to the terrible ordeal of sickness and suffering through which the Colony has been passing. Following on the rice famine in India, and combined with the continued shortness of the sugar crop, the epidemic indeed last year reduced the general prosperity of this Island to a lower ebb than it had sunk to for many years previously.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

3. The rates of import duty on wine, beer, and tobacco had to be considerably raised, in order to meet financial exigencies, and an acreage duty equivalent to the increase on the foreign article was placed on the cultivation of tobacco within the Island. The introduction of opium, which was supposed to be smuggled in by the Chinese traders to a large extent, was also for the first time legalized, on payment of a duty of 10*s.* per lb., licences for its retail within the Island being likewise issued at 10*l.* each.

4. There is no reason to suppose that these measures will lead to an increased consumption of the drug, whilst on the other hand, they render it the interest of many persons to aid the customs and police in checking its illicit introduction.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The revenue of the year had been estimated on the usual data at 710,055*l.*, but soon after the epidemic extended to Port Louis, in February, trade and industry became so completely paralysed as to render it clear that a large falling off must be anticipated, though no one then dreamt that it would amount to as much as 25 per cent. Every effort was therefore made to reduce the expenditure, and although much unforeseen outlay was necessitated by the measures adopted to cope with the disease, a net saving of 60,382*l.* was effected, diminishing the ultimate deficit on the year to 107,610*l.*

6. This result will be more clearly understood on reference to the subjoined comparative statement:—

	Revenue 1867.	Expenditure 1867.	
Estimated	£710,055	£702,984	Surplus £ 7,071
Actual -	£534,992	£642,602	Deficit £107,610
Falling off	£175,063	Reduction £60,602	

7. The Colonial Treasury was fortunately able to meet this further drain on its resources, and although, in consequence of the return of the fever with the hot weather, the revenue has not rallied even up to the present date, I feel confident, nevertheless, from the reduction in establishments and other economical arrangements made when introducing the estimates for the present year, that any further deficit will be avoided.

Local Revenues.

8. The expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis was greatly swollen by the advances, amounting to upwards of 20,000*l*,. which it had to make to the local Board of Health on account of the epidemic. Those advances were made under the security of a mortgage on the sanitary rates for the next 16 years, calculated to cover interest and to extinguish the principal, an arrangement since regularized by Ordinance No. 12 of 1868.

9. The total amount of debentures issued by the municipality during the year appears to have reached 38,880*l*.; and as only 10,840*l*. overdue debentures were cancelled, there was an increase of 28,040*l*. to the municipal debt. The annual interest paid on account of that debt during the year amounted to no less than 9,000*l*., which at seven per cent. would represent a capital of 130,000*l*.

10. Statements showing the revenue and expenditure of the General Board of Health and of the Poor Law Committees are for the first time inserted.

11. Until the taking effect of Ordinance, No. 27 of 1866, each of the rural districts had its own Board of Health, and raised and disbursed its sanitary rates separately; but most fortunately this system, which led in almost every case to insolvency and inaction, had been abolished prior to the outbreak of the epidemic, all financial authority except in Port Louis being transferred to the General Board.

12. As that body had had no time to collect funds to meet the emergency, I was obliged to sanction an advance of 5,000*l*. from the Colonial Treasury, with the aid of which, and the proceeds of a sanitary rate of 1*s*. in the pound on house property in the country, it was enabled to made the disbursements most urgently required, amounting in the aggregate to 12,363*l*., exclusive of 2,692*l*. provided on the annual estimates on account of the three medical inspectors and their staff.

13. A similar but even more complete concentration of all financial powers in the hands of a Central Commission—inasmuch as the town is included—has, as your Grace is aware, been recently enacted by the Legislature in the case of the relief of the poor; but in 1867 either elective or nominated committees existed in every district, though, except in Port Louis where the duty devolved on the municipality, they nowhere showed themselves equal to the occasion, and but for advances from the General Board of Health, the sick poor of the rural districts would have been almost entirely neglected.

14. In Port Louis, as will be seen, the expenditure exceeded the receipts by no less than 8,314*l*., a fact which explains the readiness with which the municipality agreed to resign for the future the charge of the poor of the town to the Central Commission.

15. The outlay of all the rural committees combined barely reached 5,000*l*., which was in the aggregate covered by the rates they collected. In addition, however, to their obligations to the General Board of Health, debts amounting to 843*l*. 0*s*. 6*d*. were incurred to the Civil Hospital and Lunatic Asylum for the treatment of paupers, which have since been declared irrecoverable by the Legislature, and struck off charge by Government.

Military Expenditure.

16. The total outlay of Great Britain on account of the protection of the Island, as set forth in detail, amounts to 98,741*l*. 0*s*. 7*d*., of which 45,000*l*. was contributed from the Colonial Treasury. As no credit is given in the Deputy Commissary General's statement for rent of canteens, Government lands, &c., &c., which must amount to a considerable sum, nor allowance made for the admission, duty free, of all supplies for the troops, it may, I apprehend, be fairly assumed that Mauritius last year defrayed one-half of the military expenditure incurred on its account. The burden is a heavy one in the crippled state of its finances, but as Her Majesty's Government has lately declared its inability to diminish it, it would not be becoming in me to say more on the point.

17. As I have seen it stated, however, that the Royal Commission on the employment of Indian troops in the Colonies has designated Mauritius as one of those where this course could be followed with advantage, I feel bound to record my dissent in the strongest possible terms to this recommendation, supposing it to be meant to refer to the

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introduction of an ordinary Sepoy regiment, which could not but prove a source of constant anxiety, if not of positive danger, looking to the great preponderance of the Indian element in the population.

18. On sanitary grounds, moreover, there is little to be said in favour of such an arrangement, the natives of India being more liable than Europeans to succumb to the epidemic and endemic fevers of the Island; but in point of fact it is in the power of the military authorities to place the garrison of the Island, however composed, beyond all extraordinary risk on the score of health, by at once erecting the barracks, which have been for so many years talked of, on the elevated plateau of the interior, where the fever has never penetrated.

19. That the troops escaped with comparatively small loss (under 3 per cent. of the strength) last year was due, first, to the 32d regiment being quartered at Mahébourg, on the windward side of the Island, to which the epidemic had not then extended; and secondly, to the 2/13th regiment and the Royal Artillery having been promptly removed to the quarantine stations of Cannonier Point and Flat Island, which were lent by the Civil Government for this purpose. The battalion of the 13th was indeed withdrawn altogether from Mauritius in May, and as the 86th regiment, destined to relieve it, was detained in the Cape Colony till December, a good deal of risk was avoided.

Public Works.

20. Owing to the disorganization of labour by sickness, conjoined with the state of the revenue, nothing beyond incidental repairs were executed. The total expended, including roads and bridges, amounting to little more than two-fifths of what had been originally voted.

Civil Establishments.

21. As already mentioned, considerable reductions were made in this respect, the task being facilitated by the numerous vacancies occasioned in every department by deaths or retirements through ill-health.

22. During the height of the epidemic in the months of April and May it was not without extreme difficulty that the daily work of most of the public offices was carried on, whilst throughout the year nine-tenths of the employés were subject to repeated absences through relapses of fever.

23. Some idea of the extent to which the efficiency of the service was thus affected may be formed from the case of the police force, which, out of an average strength of 807 men, lost 98 (over 12 per cent.) by death, and 80 by discharge on the ground of physical incapacity for duty, or from that of the railway staff which, though only five Europeans and 25 Creoles and Indians died out of a total of about 500 men, had during the height of the disease not less than from 50 to 60 Europeans and from 100 to 150 Indians and Creoles laid up at the same time with fever, the attacks at that date, even when terminating favourably, lasting for a month and upwards. There were times, indeed, when it appeared next to impossible, with every effort and precaution on the part of those responsible, to keep the streets watched by night, or the trains running by day; but I am glad to state, nevertheless, that no interruption in either respect actually occurred.

Population.

24. I am again unable to transmit any detailed report on the vital statistics of the Colony, owing, as before, to the illness and departure on leave of absence of Dr. Edwards, the general sanitary inspector; and desirable as it is to determine in advance, with as much accuracy as possible, the true cipher of the population of the Colony at the beginning of the year, in order that a correct basis for calculating the fearful rate of mortality that ensued during its course may be established, this task is by no means easy.

25. In my Despatch, transmitting the Blue Book for 1866, I stated that the total of 341,165, estimated as existing on the 31st December, according to the births, deaths, and arrivals recorded since the census of 1861, was in my opinion below the reality, owing to the entries under the head of immigration being confined solely to immigrants from India officially reported, whereas many had come at their own expense both from that and other countries.

26. This is fully proved by the figures given in the Appendix to the present Return, which show that, whilst the arrivals, exclusive of such immigrants, of the military and of shipping, from the 8th April 1861 to 31st December 1867, amounted to 30,903, the corresponding departures were only 15,727, leaving the aggregate population larger by

15,176 than it would have been reckoned at under the old system. The greater portion of these immigrants, at their own expense, no doubt settled in Port Louis and its immediate neighbourhood.

27. From the enclosed tabular statement, prepared in the Colonial Secretary's Office, in which a rectification of the population returns in this and other respects has been carefully made for each year since the census, it will be seen, that on the 1st January 1867, the resident population was certainly not under 360,378 souls; besides this, however, the garrison and the shipping ought to be taken into account before estimating the ratio of mortality, the deaths in both being recorded in the registers of the Civil Status Office.

28. The former, including wives and families, may be reckoned as at the time of the census, at 2,500. For the latter, it is more difficult to make proper allowance; the only statistics available relating to the crews alone, though large numbers of passengers, as in the case of ships carrying Indian and Chinese coolies to the British West Indies or Cuba, are not unfrequently detained for weeks in port, refitting. The crews of all vessels entered inwards during 1867 amounted to 11,067 men, but of course many were here but for a short period, whilst others returned more than once. Considering the unsanitary state of the harbour, the liability of unacclimatised persons to disease, and the omission of passengers, it would not, I think, be unfair to add half this number, say 5,500, to the population included within the bills of mortality on 1st January 1867, which would thus be augmented to 368,000.

29. As the aggregate mortality during the year amounted to 41,201, as against 12,652 in 1865 and 12,548 in 1866, the excess due to the epidemic may be taken at about 28,600. The per-centage of deaths being thus raised from less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ to about $11\frac{1}{5}$, or considerably more than trebled. It must be borne in mind, however, in order to form a correct estimate of the ravages of the disease, that it was confined throughout the year almost entirely to the leeward side of the Island, and affected, therefore, not much more than half the population.

30. From the subjoined table a rough but tolerably correct idea of the distribution of the population among the nine districts into which the Colony is divided may be formed; and, as the exact number of deaths in 1866 and 1867 and their ratio per cent. is inserted opposite to each district, the relative proportions in which they suffered may be seen. It is not easy, however, to distinguish absolutely the leeward from the windward districts, as there are two, viz., Plaines Wilhems and Moka, occupying mainly the elevated central plateau of the Island, and thus, for the most part, exempt from fever, yet running down very nearly to the leeward coast, and containing villages in proximity thereto which were all but depopulated.

32. Discarding these, as affording no safe criterion, it may be stated, that in the four leeward districts proper, Black River, Port Louis, Pamplemousses, and Rivière du Rempart, with a population estimated at 202,000, the deaths were 33,588, or 16·62 per cent., equal to fully fivefold their ordinary rate; on the other hand, in the three windward districts, Flacq, Grand Port, and Savane, with a population of 114,000, they amounted to only 3,985, or a trifle under 3·5 per cent,—as nearly as possible their normal ratio. Even this does not give the full extent of the contrast, for a great many persons attacked by the disease in Port Louis and Pamplemousses migrated to the higher regions or to the opposite coast, and if they happened to die, reduced the death rolls of the former at the expense of the latter districts.

33. When it is added that this vast mortality was no more evenly distributed over the year than it was over the Island, but that by far the larger part of it was crowded into three or four months, upwards of 25,000 persons having died in March, April, and May, 15,000 of them in Port Louis alone, the daily death-roll in that city at one period having exceeded 300, thus surpassing what it had ever been during the cholera, some idea may be formed of the horrors of the situation, and of the enormous difficulties with which the Government, the Municipality, and the General Board of Health were called upon unexpectedly to contend, in providing for attendance on the sick, burying the dead, &c.

34. Various causes have been assigned for this terrible calamity, but in the absence of the report of the Commission which I appointed in May 1867 to inquire into the subject, I shall but very briefly touch on them. Among medical men within the Colony three leading theories are current:—first, that this malarious fever was introduced direct and unchanged from India; second, that it is a modification or development of the bilious remittent fever, known here for many years past as the "Bombay fever;" thirdly, that it is a local outbreak, occasioned by noxious emanations from the accumulated organic matter which encumbers the estuaries and harbours of the coast.

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35. The last, to which the Chief Medical Officer has from the first adhered, and which will be found ably supported and elucidated in his Annual Report on Diseases treated in the District Prison Hospitals, strikes me as so natural and well founded, taking into account the density of the population, the limited water supply of the last few years, and the filthy habits of the Indians and ex-apprentices, that it seems needless to encounter the objections to the two former theories, arising respectively from the facts, that the Mauritius epidemic is not communicable from man to man, and that it is of an intermittent character.

36. In England, the want of proper drainage, and neglect of other sanitary precautions in Port Louis, appear generally to have been regarded as the reasons, if not of the origin of the fever, at any rate of its malignity; but a closer examination of facts would lead to material qualification of any views of this kind. No doubt the drainage of Port Louis is very defective, and its night service by no means properly performed, but the municipality is certainly justified in asserting that the town had never been in a cleanlier state than at the commencement of 1867, the beds of the streams which convey its surface drainage to the sea, and of the gutters leading into them, having been thoroughly cleared after the inundation of 1865, and a fresh contract for scavengering on an extended scale entered into in 1866. Again, so far from originating in Port Louis, the epidemic took its rise many months before in the district of Black River, the very one referred to in the last report of the General Sanitary Inspector, Dr. Edwards, as the healthiest in the Island, its mortality in 1865 having been little over 2·5 per cent., although, as will be seen by the table, in 1867 it rose to 14·9, or within a fraction of 6 times as high, presenting, in spite of its gentle eminences, wide spreading valleys, and sparse population, as near as may be the same proportional augmentation as in the narrow streets and crowded habitations of the city.

37. The whole course of the visitation indeed, from first to last, has been so mysterious, not to say apparently capricious, as to prove beyond a doubt that it has been mainly dependent on extremely complicated and recondite meteorological phenomena. It has made little distinction either in town or country between the well kept mansions of the rich and the squalid hovels of the poor, has in some cases passed by the swampiest localities to attack the inhabitants of dry and elevated spots beyond; and after stopping short for months at certain limits has suddenly continued its resistless onward progress, or again, without apparent reason, swept back over districts where its ravages were all but extinct.

38. In making these remarks, I do not mean for one moment to deny that the malignity and persistency of the disease are due in a very considerable degree to the absence of proper sanitary arrangements throughout the Island. That a death rate so fearful as that which literally decimated the population of Port Louis twice over within the space of a few months, might have been greatly moderated by the adoption beforehand of proper measures cannot be doubted; but the neglect of a sound system of hygiène might till very recently be charged against municipal authorities in most parts of the world, and unfortunately the principles best suited for tropical climates have been as yet by no means definitely determined and placed beyond dispute.

39. In India the Governments of the different Presidencies have recently turned their attention to this question, and a plan of sewerage is, I perceive, being prepared for Madras, which may serve as a model here; though, owing to the situation of Port Louis, and the absolute necessity of preventing the further pollution of the harbour, the expense of any scheme that may be adopted must necessarily prove very heavy.

40. Ten years ago a Commission recommended that the four principal streams which descend through the town should be converted into huge masonry culverts into which a network of sewers should be turned, at a cost of about 90,000*l.*; but the proposal encountered great opposition, and was finally repudiated at the instance of another Commission; fortunately, I apprehend, since the direct discharge of the entire filth of so large a population into a comparatively small basin, so narrow in its exit that the tides with difficulty run in and out, could hardly have failed to make bad worse. Little has been attempted subsequently in the way of improvement, except the establishment of another company for converting the deodorized nightsoil into manure for agricultural purposes; but a new scheme of underground sewerage has recently been started, and as your Grace is aware, I have appointed a Committee of engineers to investigate the matter and report as to the best method of proceedings.

Immigration.

41. Of the extent to which an ample and regular allowance of food combined with constant medical surveillance sufficed to ward off, or render innocuous, the attacks of

the epidemic, even when at its height, satisfactory proofs will be found in the Annual Report of the Protector of Immigrants, which as usual is bound up with the Blue Book.

42. Mr. Beyts shows, from the returns of the officers of the civil status that the death rate among Indians employed on sugar estates was only 6·1 per cent. as compared with 12·9 per cent. amongst those who were their own masters. By far the greater mortality on sugar estates moreover was among the women and children, the former as a general rule refusing to be treated in hospital. Among the labourers under engagement the deaths, as already reported, did not exceed the extremely low average of 4·08 per cent.

43. The Hospital Ordinance passed in 1865 may be pronounced, under the circumstances, to have worked most successfully, although some of its provisions of necessity fell into temporary abeyance from the great demand for the services of medical men.

44. There is little else in the Protector's Report to call for special remark. Immigration was at a standstill throughout the year, so far as India was concerned, the only arrivals having been 350 time expired men from Réunion, a source of supply since cut off by the steps taken by the Government of that Colony to prevent further engagements being attested before the British Consul.

Education.

45. I have little that is satisfactory to add in forwarding the reports on this head. The epidemic was particularly rife among children, and owing to the number who were too ill to attend, and to the fears of parents in other cases, the schools in the Leeward Districts were almost entirely deserted. Those of the Government were closed with my approval in April, and the services of those masters who had not been attacked by fever were, when necessary, utilized as registrars of deaths. In most cases both government and grant-in-aid schools were after an interval re-opened, but the attendance continued, with constant interruptions, on a very much reduced scale to the end of the year. The Royal College kept its terms as usual, but several of the professors died, others were obliged to invalid, and the number of pupils fell to barely a third of what it had recently been.

Savings Bank.

46. From the Report of the Acting Manager of this Institution, it will be seen that one of the objects for which it was established was fulfilled, inasmuch as great use was made of it during the epidemic. The amount of deposits withdrawn was 72,000*l.*; but on the other hand 55,500*l.* was deposited. The number of depositors was reduced by 599; of these, some died, others returned to India, the sums withdrawn by the latter class having averaged 28*l.* per head.

Administration of Justice.

47. I enclose returns of the civil and criminal cases and other business dealt with by the Supreme Court in the years 1866 and 1867 respectively. A considerable reduction in all respects is exhibited in the latter year, litigants, counsel, witnesses, and prisoners having been alike affected by the fever.

48. The number of trials at the assizes was less than half, arising, as stated in the Report of the Acting Procureur-General from actual diminution of the criminal classes, and not from moral reformation or want of detection. The police, indeed, as Mr. Colin testifies, not only maintained its efficiency in spite of every obstacle, but rendered valuable services to the sick, and great assistance in sanitary matters.

49. As regards capital offences, the falling off last year was in proportion, but, as will be seen from the quinquennial synopsis of crimes annexed to the Report, neither the number of cases nor of persons was so low as in some years of the series.

50. Three persons were convicted of murder, of whom two were executed, and ten of the minor crime of manslaughter, none having been actually acquitted. With respect to gang robberies and petty larcenies, I concur with Mr. Colin in anticipating that the stringent measures recently adopted with your Grace's sanction for the registration of Indians who have completed their term of industrial residence on sugar plantations will materially tend to put a stop to these offences.

Gaols and Prisoners.

51. I felt myself called upon to explain to your Grace some months ago that the overcrowding and other evils charged against the prison system in Mauritius in the

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digest of information as to colonial prisons, lately laid before Parliament, was founded in a great measure upon misapprehension of the facts, and to show that the average mortality among Indian prisoners here had been much below what, on the authority of the Bengal Sanitary Commission, it was in that Presidency. Had I at that time been cognizant of Lord Napier's minute of 10th July 1866 on the defective condition of the gaols in the Madras Presidency, or of the Report of the Madras Sanitary Commissioner, I might have been tempted to add that the death rate in this Island was actually much less than half what it is in that part of India. The sad reverse of last year has, however, taken away occasion of boasting, for the epidemic found, as already mentioned, full scope amongst the class which usually supplies the gaol population, and the mortality of 1867 was fearfully augmented.

52. From the ordinary returns, as set forth in the Blue Book, neither the maximum, minimum, nor average lock-up is ascertainable, and they strike me as being generally so complicated and unsuitable to colonial usage, that I venture to suggest that one of the best results of the attention which has lately been directed to the subject, would be the substitution of simpler and more easily intelligible forms.

53. As regards the comparative extent of sickness and mortality adequate information may be obtained from the annual report of diseases treated in the district prison hospitals, contributed by the chief medical officer, and from the subsidiary report of the prison surgeon of Port Louis, attached to the Acting Procureur-General's report on the civil prisons of that town. It will be seen that Dr. Reid considers the sick list of the prisons moderate, bearing in mind the extent to which the epidemic prevailed in the districts in which they were situated, and he shows that though the mortality was very much heavier than in the three preceding years, it did not greatly exceed that of 1863, when Bombay fever made great ravages. According to his calculations the death rate per cent. of the average daily strength was—

In 1863 - - -	11·393
„ 1864 - - -	5·636
„ 1865 - - -	3·500
„ 1866 - - -	3·443
„ 1867 - - -	12·139

In some observations on Dr. Pougnet's report for Port Louis gaol, the chief medical officer gives the per-centage there as 11·30 only, but it should have been stated at about a half per cent. higher, as the deaths which occurred at Flat Island are not taken into account, although the prisoners sent there are included in the average strength.

54. It is certainly so far satisfactory that the deaths of prisoners in town fell very considerably below, and in the country did not materially exceed, those which occurred among the general population; and notwithstanding the mean of both is more than double the usual ratio, I may be permitted to point out that although it has been deemed necessary to prohibit emigration from Madras on account of the epidemic, that mean does not equal the ordinary mortality of the gaols of that Presidency, which, in 1865, amounted to 12·13, and in 1866 to 12·45 per cent.

Legislation.

55. The Council of Government continued to meet regularly throughout the year, and, as will be seen from the report of the Acting Procureur-General, passed several laws of great importance. Foremost among these Mr. Colin rightly places the Ordinance for consolidating the law as to Indian labourers already referred to, which by continuing to old immigrants the same obligation of accounting for their place of residence and means of livelihood as rests upon those who have not yet served five years in the Colony affords a basis for many salutary reforms, and is universally looked upon as the commencement of a new era of social improvement. Hitherto, from a fear lest immigration might be stopped in case the slightest restriction were imposed, this class of the community has been suffered to live precisely as it thought proper, and there can be no doubt that not only the increase of crime but the deterioration of the sanitary state of the Island are mainly due to the licence thus permitted. The epidemic brought matters in this latter respect to a crisis, and with the aid of the experience of the Protector of Immigrants, and of the Superintendent of Police, the late Procureur-General, Mr. Sholto Douglas, succeeded in framing the enactment in question, which has since received the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

56. Among the other measures which Mr. Douglas had taken in hand, with legal experience and consummate ability, which commanded the confidence of all parties, was the reformation of the entire code of civil procedure, which is so cumbrous and

expensive as to constitute, especially in the case of the forcible sale of small properties, a complete denial of justice. He did not live to finish his labours in this direction, although, with the aid of the Law Committee of Council, great progress had been made, and it consequently devolved on his successor to take up the work where he left it. The only instalment of legal reform in 1867 was the Ordinance "to amend the "law relating to irregular successions," in other words, successions falling to illegitimate relations, a large class unhappily in most communities where a mixture of races exists.

Exchange—Money—Weights and Measures.

57. There is probably no country in the world which would benefit more than Mauritius from the introduction of uniformity of weights, measures, and coins. The accounts of the Government are made up in British sterling money, and duties are levied at the Custom House according to the imperial standards of weights and size; the books of bankers and merchants are kept in dollars and cents and shopkeepers frequently price their goods in livres and sous, which, like the weights and measures invariably used in commercial transactions, are the same as those of France before the first Revolution.

58. When it is added that a large proportion of the goods imported come from this latter country invoiced according to the decimal system which has been established there for 70 years, and charged for in modern French money, the complex calculations often requisite for passing an entry at the customs may be understood; the confusion and loss, however, caused to persons newly arrived in the country by having to make their purchases in "gros" or "aunes" or "velts" and pay for them by exchanging real coins for nominal and imaginary ones, can hardly be conceived without a trial.

59. Complicated as the question is when considered in all its bearings, and difficult as it would undoubtedly prove to introduce new denominations without compulsory regulations, which could hardly be resorted to in a British possession, I should have been tempted to ask permission to adopt the French metric system, now that it has been made permissive in Great Britain by Act of Parliament, if I had not been sanguine that further light would be thrown on the subject during the discussions of the International Conference which was held at Paris last year in connexion with the exhibition of the weights, measures, and coins of all nations.

Imports and Exports.

60. A comparision with those of the previous year shows a serious falling off, owing on the one hand to the commercial stagnation caused by the epidemic, on the other to the shortness of the sugar crop:—

	Imports (excluding specie.)	Exports.
1866 -	£2,048,000	£2,501,000
1867 -	1,720,000	2,003,800
Falling off -	£328,000	£498,000

India still stands at the head of the list in respect of imports, though owing to the reduction in the price of rice their value was less by a third than in the preceding year. Great Britain as usual is second and France third. The exports from Australia were less valuable by nearly a quarter of a million, and Great Britain consequently again resumed the first place, though not by a large amount. The quantity of sugar shipped during the year was 100,000 tons, as against 124,000 in 1866; and as the average prices of the two years was nearly the same, say 18*s.* 4*d.* as against 18*s* 6*d.* per cwt., the difference in the estimated value stands at 420,722*l.*

Shipping.

61. The tonnage of vessels arriving at and leaving Port Louis fell in about the same proportions, amounting inwards to 245,000 and outwards to 250,000 tons. The proportion of British ships was somewhat larger than usual, which is explained by the larger quantity of sugar exported to England.

General Remarks.

62. In concluding this melancholy chapter in the history of Mauritius, I am preserved alike from indulging in extravagant anticipations of a speedy return to prosperity on the one hand and from gloomy forebodings on the other, by having carefully watched all that has occurred since the close of the year. Had I been writing at that date, I might naturally enough have erred in the former respect, for the epidemic had at that time all

MAURITIUS. but disappeared, while the promise of the coming crop was unprecedentedly favourable. The gradual revival, however, of the disease with the return of hot weather served to dim the brightness of the prospect, which became altogether clouded over when there followed on the 11th and 12th March a hurricane more destructive by far than any which had been experienced during the last 30 or 40 years.

63. For a moment it seemed as if the misfortunes of the Colonists were about to overwhelm them, but notwithstanding that the state of the public health is still far from satisfactory, that the injury to the canes seems likely to prove as great as at first apprehended, and that the extra expenditure entailed on the Colonial Treasury by the damage to the railways and other public works has necessitated recourse to a loan, a sensible increase of commercial and agricultural activity is already discernable, and as nearly two-thirds of 1868 have now elapsed, I feel warranted in predicting that the state of affairs at the end of this year will be in all respects much better than at the end of last.

64. This result will be chiefly due, under Divine Providence, to the courage, energy, and intelligence with which the planters have contended against the successive difficulties which have beset them. In the neighbouring island of Réunion, although the scourge of pestilence has been escaped, the hurricane of March, following, as the Council-General expresses it, "on six years of unexampled agricultural distress," has driven that body to appeal to the Emperor for pecuniary assistance on a large scale from the mother country. In Mauritius, although exceptions may have been taken to the amount of the military contribution on the ground that the troops are kept here mainly for Imperial purposes, no disposition has been shown to have recourse to a movement of this kind, or to rely on aught save their own unassisted efforts to extricate themselves from the embarrassments by which through the force of circumstances they are surrounded, and once more to restore this fertile island to the prosperous condition it had attained by means of Indian immigration.

65. Fervently hoping that these efforts will prove successful,

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,
&c. &c. &c.

RETURN showing the Mortality amongst the Troops serving in this command, during the year ending 31st December 1867.

1867. MONTHS.	R. A.		R. E.		2/13th Regt.		2/22d Regt.		32d Regt.		Total.	
	Officers.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Rank and File.
January	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
February	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	5
March	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	4
April	—	1	—	3	—	9	—	2	—	—	—	15
May	—	1	—	7	—	6	—	2	—	—	—	16
June	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
October	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	2	—	11	—	23	1	7	—	3	1	46

(Signed) G. H. MILMAN,
Assistant Military Secretary.

Assistant Military Secretary's Office,
10th August 1868.

POPULATION RETURN.—(*Exclusive of Military and Shipping.*)

YEARS.	POPULATION ON 1ST JANUARY.									BIRTHS.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
1861	61,346	56,070	117,416	141,615	51,019	192,634	202,961	107,089	310,050*	1,583	1,572	3,155	2,116	2,088	4,204	3,699	3,660	7,359†
1862	—	—	121,017	148,054	54,711	202,765	—	—	323,782	2,073	2,072	4,145	3,022	3,071	6,049	5,091	5,103	10,194
1863	—	—	121,723	149,942	57,726	207,668	—	—	329,391	2,108	2,106	4,214	3,140	3,147	6,287	5,248	5,253	10,501
1864	—	—	125,829	147,691	9,905	207,596	—	—	333,425	2,146	2,119	4,265	3,217	3,206	6,423	5,363	5,325	10,688
1865	—	—	128,939	147,561	62,150	209,711	—	—	338,650	2,205	2,132	4,337	3,495	3,389	6,884	5,700	5,521	11,221
1866	—	—	131,632	157,175	67,859	225,034	—	—	356,666	2,107	2,153	4,260	3,527	3,378	6,905	5,634	5,531	11,165
1867	—	—	134,735	155,589	70,054	225,643	—	—	360,378	1,534	1,576	3,110	3,036	3,065	6,101	4,570	4,641	9,211
1868	—	—	121,957	139,438	65,560	204,998	—	—	326,955									

(*continued.*)

YEARS.	ARRIVALS.								DEATHS.‡								
	General Population.				Indian Population.			TOTAL.	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Children.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
1861	4,315	201	458	4,974	8,623	2,958	11,581	16,555†	1,516	1,240	2,756	3,078	1,020	4,098	4,594	2,260	6,854†
1862	3,086	123	421	3,630	7,440	2,453	9,893	13,523	2,690	2,237	4,927	6,818	2,009	8,827	9,508	4,246	13,754
1863	3,862	226	434	4,522	3,667	1,587	5,254	9,776	1,839	1,467	3,306	6,505	1,888	8,393	8,344	3,355	11,619
1864	3,541	566	477	4,584	5,656	1,926	7,582	12,166	1,714	1,504	3,218	6,311	2,166	8,477	8,025	3,670	11,695
1865	3,278	503	671	4,452	14,910	5,373	20,283	24,735	1,990	1,861	3,851	5,937	2,286	8,223	7,927	4,147	12,074
1866	4,174	454	546	5,174	3,702	1,894	5,596	10,770	1,916	1,742	3,658	5,890	2,187	8,077	7,806	3,929	11,735
1867	2,876	389	295	3,560	317	33	350	3,910	9,057	7,342	16,399	16,933	6,765	23,698	25,990	14,107	40,097
1868																	

(*continued.*)

YEARS.	DEPARTURES.								Still-births.			Percentage of Births.			Percentage of Deaths.			Percentage of Still-births to Births.		
	General Population.				Indian Population.			TOTAL.	General Pop.	Indian Pop.	Total.	General Pop.	Indian Pop.	Whole Pop.	General Pop.	Indian Pop.	Whole Pop.	General Pop.	Indian Pop.	Whole Pop.
	M.	F.	Children.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.													
1861	1,296	304	172	1,772	1,222	334	1,556	3,328†	206	256	462†	2·6	2·0	2·3	2·2	2·0	2·1	6·5	6·0	6·2
1862	1,669	231	242	2,142	1,752	460	2,212	4,354	241	340	581	3·4	2·9	3·0	4·0	4·2	4·2	5·8	5·6	5·7
1863	995	115	214	1,324	2,553	667	3,220	4,544	287	324	611	3·3	3·0	3·1	2·6	4·0	3·4	6·8	5·1	5·7
1864	2,009	285	227	2,521	2,692	721	3,413	5,934	280	407	687	3·3	3·0	3·1	2·5	4·0	3·4	6·5	6·3	6·4
1865	1,815	269	161	2,245	2,854	767	3,621	5,866	313	383	696	3·2	3·0	3·1	2·9	3·6	3·3	7·2	5·5	6·2
1866	2,016	455	202	2,673	2,925	890	3,815	6,488	351	515	866	3·1	3·0	3·0	2·6	3·5	3·2	8·2	7·4	7·7
1867	2,338	455	256	3,049	2,571	827	3,398	6,447	442	556	998	2·5	2·9	2·8	13·4	11·5	12·2	14·2	9·1	10·8
1868																				

* On 8th April, date of the taking of the Census.
† From 8th April to 31st December.
‡ The figures in this Statement do not correspond with those in the Population Return appended to the Blue Book, in consequence of the Still-births having been separated from the total number of Deaths.

FELIX BEDINGFELD,
Colonial Secretary.

BIRTHS throughout the ISLAND of MAURITIUS from 8th APRIL 1861 to 31st DECEMBER 1867.

DISTRICTS.	1861.*									1862.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
Port Louis - -	770	772	1,542	279	268	547	1,049	1,040	2,089	969	994	1,963	422	411	833	1,391	1,405	2,796
Pamplemousses -	133	157	290	337	331	668	470	488	958	190	203	393	541	498	1,039	731	701	1,432
Riv. du Rempart	82	59	141	153	159	312	235	218	453	108	104	212	281	236	517	389	340	729
Flacq - -	154	152	306	366	371	737	520	523	1,043	222	199	421	486	493	979	708	692	1,400
Grand Port -	164	175	339	295	289	584	459	464	923	199	216	415	360	388	748	559	604	1,163
Savanne - -	67	69	136	198	179	377	265	248	513	90	85	175	225	253	478	315	338	653
Plaines Wilhems	86	78	164	213	217	430	299	295	594	131	118	249	321	360	681	452	478	930
Moka - -	67	63	130	153	143	296	220	206	426	81	76	157	180	177	357	261	253	514
Black River -	60	47	107	122	131	253	182	178	360	83	77	160	202	215	417	285	292	577
Total - -	1,583	1,572	3,155	2,116	2,088	4,204	3,699	3,660	7,359	2,073	2,072	4,145	3,018	3,031	6,049	5,091	5,103	10,194

(*continued.*)

DISTRICTS.	1863.									1864.									1865.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
Port Louis -	1,046	1,010	2,056	471	460	940	1,517	1,479	2,996	1,012	1,009	2,021	467	490	957	1,479	1,499	2,978	1,021	998	2,019	600	488	1,088	1,621	1,486	3,107
Pamplemousses	213	207	420	499	501	1,000	712	708	1,420	219	208	427	489	493	982	708	701	1,409	237	253	490	530	529	1,059	767	782	1,549
Riv. du Rempart	90	97	187	239	255	494	329	352	681	77	100	177	277	252	529	354	352	706	95	83	178	287	281	568	382	364	746
Flacq - -	182	196	378	559	562	1,121	741	758	1,499	206	218	424	533	528	1,061	739	746	1,485	206	197	403	644	604	1,248	850	801	1,651
Grand Port -	214	227	441	431	445	876	645	672	1,317	202	213	415	419	385	804	621	598	1,219	235	246	481	429	462	891	664	708	1,372
Savanne -	99	85	184	269	263	532	368	348	716	111	72	183	240	253	493	351	325	676	127	91	218	260	293	553	387	384	771
Plaines Wilhems	128	130	258	356	324	680	484	454	938	158	128	286	394	399	793	552	527	1,079	140	122	262	355	357	712	495	479	974
Moka - -	66	76	142	152	159	311	218	235	453	70	90	160	205	202	407	275	292	567	63	73	136	210	196	406	273	269	542
Black River -	70	78	148	164	169	333	234	247	481	91	81	172	193	204	397	284	285	569	81	69	150	180	179	359	261	248	509
Total -	2,108	2,106	4,214	3,140	3,147	6,287	5,248	5,253	10,501	2,146	2,119	4,265	3,217	3,206	6,423	5,363	5,325	10,688	2,205	2,132	4,337	3,495	3,389	6,884	5,700	5,521	11,221

(*continued.*)

DISTRICTS.	1866.									1867.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
Port Louis -	992	987	1,979	580	509	1,089	1,572	1,496	3,068	606	624	1,230	289	283	572	895	907	1,802
Pamplemousses	213	229	442	492	533	1,025	705	762	1,467	138	159	297	397	412	809	535	571	1,106
Riv. du Rempart	90	88	178	323	281	604	413	369	782	82	69	151	246	215	461	328	284	612
Flacq - -	199	210	409	598	528	1,126	797	738	1,535	182	186	368	604	634	1,238	786	820	1,606
Grand Port -	229	209	438	458	455	913	687	664	1,351	207	216	423	487	508	995	694	724	1,418
Savanne -	101	105	206	295	301	596	396	406	802	110	97	207	317	354	671	427	451	878
Plaines Wilhems	139	161	300	372	381	753	511	542	1,053	113	127	240	372	347	719	485	474	959
Moka - -	69	63	132	236	216	452	305	279	584	65	63	128	239	225	464	304	288	592
Black River -	75	101	176	173	174	347	248	275	523	31	35	66	85	87	172	116	122	238
Total -	2,107	2,153	4,260	3,527	3,378	6,905	5,634	5,531	11,165	1,534	1,576	3,110	3,036	3,065	6,101	4,570	4,641	9,211

* From 8th April, date of the taking of the Census.

(Signed) FELIX BEDINGFELD,
Colonial Secretary.

DEATHS throughout the ISLAND of MAURITIUS from 8th APRIL 1861 to 31st DECEMBER 1867.*

DISTRICTS.	1861.†									1862.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
Port Louis -	752	586	1,338	812	189	1,001	1,564	775	2,339	1,313	1,095	2,408	1,648	389	2,037	2,961	1,484	4,445
Pamplemousses	176	143	319	417	185	602	593	328	921	352	305	657	1,329	414	1,743	1,681	719	2,400
Riv. du Rempart	47	40	87	212	75	287	259	115	374	90	56	146	457	153	610	547	209	756
Flacq - -	119	119	238	607	177	784	726	296	1,022	255	191	446	1,239	247	1,486	1,494	438	1,932
Grand Port -	157	108	265	284	104	388	441	212	653	224	209	433	692	217	909	916	426	1,342
Savanne - -	59	43	102	210	59	269	269	102	371	92	70	162	296	135	431	388	205	593
Plaines Wilhems	93	97	190	237	104	341	330	201	531	154	127	281	573	219	792	727	346	1,073
Moka - - -	58	67	125	176	73	249	234	140	374	110	100	210	299	119	418	409	219	628
Black River -	55	37	92	123	54	177	178	91	269	100	84	184	285	116	401	385	200	585
Total - -	1,516	1,240	2,756	3,078	1,020	4,098	4,594	2,260	6,854	2,690	2,237	4,927	6,818	2,009	8,827	9,508	4,246	13,754

(*continued.*)

DISTRICTS.	1863.									1864.									1865.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
Port Louis -	891	738	1,629	1,167	272	1,439	2,058	1,010	3,068	841	758	1,599	1,156	330	1,486	1,997	1,088	3,085	1,011	959	1,970	1,205	419	1,624	2,216	1,378	3,594
Pamplemousses	215	187	402	1,097	297	1,394	1,312	484	1,796	228	189	417	1,059	361	1,420	1,287	550	1,837	275	222	497	828	353	1,181	1,103	575	1,678
Riv. du Rempart	47	37	84	609	156	765	656	193	849	73	65	138	451	165	616	524	230	754	58	67	125	401	183	584	459	250	709
Flacq - -	163	124	287	1,091	306	1,397	1,254	430	1,684	108	110	218	868	323	1,191	976	433	1,409	134	140	274	913	373	1,286	1,047	513	1,560
Grand Port -	185	149	334	891	248	1,139	1,076	397	1,473	153	128	281	845	264	1,109	998	392	1,390	143	149	292	812	284	1,096	955	433	1,388
Savanne - -	63	49	112	328	151	479	391	200	591	68	58	126	376	156	532	444	214	658	87	73	160	494	172	666	581	245	826
Plaines Wilhems	135	94	229	651	210	861	780	304	1,090	113	94	207	854	309	1,163	967	403	1,370	136	122	258	691	282	973	827	404	1,231
Moka - -	65	39	104	407	140	547	472	179	651	67	49	116	473	153	626	540	202	742	68	69	137	341	137	478	409	206	615
Black River -	75	50	125	264	108	372	339	158	497	63	53	116	229	105	334	292	158	450	78	60	138	252	83	335	330	143	473
Total - -	1,839	1,467	3,306	6,505	1,888	8,393	8,344	3,355	11,699	1,714	1,504	3,218	6,311	2,166	8,477	8,025	3,670	11,695	1,990	1861	3,851	5,937	2,286	8,223	7,927	4,147	12,074

(*continued.*)

DISTRICTS.	1866.									1867.								
	General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.			General Population.			Indian Population.			TOTAL.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Grand Total.
Port Louis -	901	878	1,779	1,191	364	1,555	2,092	1,242	3,334	5,859	5,000	10,859	8,206	2,906	11,112	14,065	7,906	21,971
Pamplemousses	230	205	435	908	345	1,253	1,138	550	1,688	1,226	884	2,110	2,612	1,169	3,781	3,838	2,053	5,891
Riv. du Rempart	55	57	112	617	177	794	672	234	906	317	249	566	1,322	506	1,828	1,639	755	2,394
Flacq - -	138	119	257	823	352	1,175	961	471	1,432	276	216	492	845	427	1,272	1,121	643	1,764
Grand Port -	183	158	341	687	250	937	870	408	1,278	199	162	361	543	233	776	742	395	1,137
Savanne - -	91	72	163	736	225	961	827	297	1,124	123	88	211	427	175	602	550	263	813
Plaines Wilhems	129	112	241	407	208	615	536	320	856	307	223	530	877	389	1,266	1,184	612	1,796
Moka - -	69	55	124	287	123	410	356	178	534	252	172	424	747	355	1,102	999	527	1,526
Black River -	120	86	206	234	143	377	354	229	583	498	348	846	1,354	605	1,959	1,852	953	2,805
Total - -	1,916	1,742	3,658	5,890	2,187	8,077	7,806	3,929	11,735	9,057	7,342	16,399	16,933	6,765	23,698	25,990	14,107	40,097

* This statement does not agree with the one published in the several Blue Books, in consequence of the still-births having been returned separately.

† From 8th April, date of the taking of the Census.

FELIX BEDINGFELD,
Colonial Secretary.

MAURITIUS.

STILL-BIRTHS throughout the ISLAND of MAURITIUS from 8th April 1861 to 31st December 1867.

DISTRICTS.	1861.*			1862.			1863.			1864.			1865.			1866.			1867.		
	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.	General Population.	Indian Population.	TOTAL.
Port Louis - -	135	86	221	151	127	278	197	116	313	183	126	309	182	112	294	195	124	319	277	133	410
Pamplemousses -	15	23	38	30	63	93	23	49	72	28	80	108	28	71	99	29	71	100	31	50	81
Riv. du Rempart†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	13	17	6	31	37	10	31	41
Flacq - -	12	37	49	9	41	50	22	44	66	12	45	57	7	12	19	18	65	83	26	74	100
Grand Port - -	27	34	61	30	35	65	20	14	34	29	44	73	55	69	124	53	76	129	47	100	147
Savanne - -	—	—	—	2	4	6	4	7	11	5	8	13	13	10	23	11	15	26	5	16	21
Plaines Wilhems -	1	4	5	4	9	13	4	18	22	9	17	26	4	18	22	9	23	32	12	21	33
Moka - -	15	72	87	14	61	75	16	76	92	14	85	99	16	71	87	18	93	111	25	113	138
Black River -	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	7	11	12	17	29	9	18	27
Total -	206	256	462	241	340	581	287	324	611	280	407	687	313	383	696	351	515	866	442	556	998

* From 8th April, date of the taking of the Census.

† In this District no record was kept of the still-births till late in 1864.

FELIX BEDINGFELD,
Colonial Secretary.

MORTALITY, 1867.

District.	Estimated Population.	Mortality.	Per Cent.	
			1867.	1866.
2. Port Louis - - -	100,000	22,315	22·000	3·663
3. Pamplemousses - - -	61,000	5,971	9·788	2·920
4. Riviere du Rempart - -	22,000	2,472	11·230	4·300
7. Flacq - - - -	47,000	1,867	3·950	3·220
8. Grand Port - - -	43,000	1,284	3·000	3·130
9. Savanne - - - -	24,000	834	3·477	4·800
1. Black River - - - -	19,000	2,830	14·900	3·220
6. Plaines Wilhems - -	32,000	1,827	5·900	2·770
5. Moka - - - -	20,000	1,671	8·035	3·200
	368,000	41,071	Average, 11·166	Average, 3·400

Government Savings Bank, July 30, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE now the honour to lay before your Excellency the annual report upon the operations of the Government Savings Bank for the past year 1867. The report is accompanied with the usual statements in elucidation thereof.

2. I have to express my regret that I have been unable to submit the report at an earlier period, the repeated attacks of fever to which the chief clerk has been subject, even up to a late period, have prevented the completion of the examination of the books of the bank by the Audit Office till within the last few days.

3. Until the several accounts, which are annually becoming more numerous, were examined and verified and a balance sheet established, no reliable statements could be made out affording sufficient correct data upon which to draw out a report.

4. Although the progress made by the bank during the past year shows no increase, on the contrary a decrease in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited, it has however fully responded to one of the chief objects of the institution, which is, to encourage all classes, particularly those depending on the fruits of their industry, to save in the time of prosperity so as to insure to them certain relief in the hour of sickness and distress.

5. The operations of the bank during the past year will, I trust, fully exemplify that this essential object has been accomplished and that the institution has been the means of affording great relief during the prevalence of the late epidemic.

6. Appendix No. 1* shows the nature and extent of the operations during 1867, when compared with those of the previous year, 1866, exhibits a marked decrease in each item, but this could not have been otherwise considering the large amount of sickness, privation, and mortality which unfortunately existed during the greater part of the year, particularly in the months of March, April, May, June and July, necessarily causing, not only a decrease in the number of depositors and the sums deposited, but large demands for the repayment of the deposits already made.

7. During the months just referred to, deposits to the amount of 35,439*l.* were withdrawn. The repayment of so large a sum could not but have proved a great relief to many suffering families and individuals, and have contributed largely to mitigate the distress and misery which was then so widely spread throughout the Island and more particularly in Port Louis.

* The Appendices to this Report not printed.

8. Appendix No. 2. shows the extent to which the operations of the bank were influenced by the prevailing epidemic. It also shows that as its baneful effects diminished a reaction soon followed; the deposits increasing and the withdrawals decreasing, the latter was however occasionally increased by Indians returning to their country and taking with them their savings.

9. I may here mention, that since the commencement of the year to the 30th of June last, there have been 702 new depositors, being at the rate of 117 per month, and sums deposited have amounted to 31,150*l.* Last year to the 30th of June there were 554 new depositors and 28,874*l.* deposited; there have been large sums withdrawn during the former period by parties proceeding to Europe, and by the settlement of successions which have been, as might be expected, many, from the increased number of deaths.

10. I may further add that after the hurricane in March last, when the repayment of deposits might have been looked for, and which took place but to a limited extent, the number of new depositors increased particularly among the Indian population, who no doubt, after the destruction of their *cases*, found that the bank was a safer and more profitable place of deposit for their savings than burying them in the ground.

11. Appendix No. 3. exhibits in detail the principal causes of the withdrawal of deposits and the closing accounts. It shows the large amount of savings continued to be made by the Indian population which has enabled all of them to return to their country with little fortunes; during the last two years 21,038*l.* have been withdrawn from the bank for this purpose, giving an average of 28*l.* per Indian.

12. It further shows that the same class continued to invest money in the purchase of land and in other profitable sources of industry, thus making them a useful and productive portion of the general population.

13. Appendix No. 4. details the several classes of the Indian depositors and the amount held by each class, which in aggregate amounts to 56,404*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, rather exceeding one third of the total deposits and which give an average of 20*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* to each Indian; the remaining two-thirds, viz., 107,188*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, are held by the general population, of which latter sum, 32,660*l*, 19*s* 7½*d.*, nearly one third of it is deposited for the benefit of 1,242 children, 479 being Europeans and 763 Creoles.

14. Appendix No. 5. refers to the operations of the branch banks and shows that they were not influenced by the late epidemic to the same extent as the central bank.

15. I avail of this opportunity to state, that the alteration your Excellency was pleased to approve of in allowing deposits and payments to be made each day of the week, except on Saturday, instead of two days in the week, and which alteration came into operation on the 15th January last, has been attended with increased transactions in the Grand Port and Savanne districts, particularly in the latter one, being more distant from Port Louis. In the other districts no marked change has taken place within the last six months; the branch bank re-opened at Plaines Wilhems, and the one opened for the first time at Moka, have commenced transactions, but none have taken place at Pamplemousses.

16. By the end of the year the advantages of the present alteration will be better understood. I may here mention that opening these branches have been attended with no expense beyond the supply of the necessary books to record transactions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. BROWNRIGG,
Acting Manager.

I.

RETURN of New Civil Cases before the Supreme Court of Mauritius, during the year 1866.

Actions exceeding 100*l.*	1,150
Actions not exceeding 100*l.*	296
Appeals from judgments of magistrates	27
Bankruptcy cases	26
Arrangements under the control of the Court	8
Cessio Bonorum	38
Total of civil cases	1,545

II.

RETURN of Criminal Cases tried in the Supreme Court of Mauritius during the same year

Cases tried at assizes	105
Appeals from convictions of district magistrates	16
	121
Number of prisoners tried at assizes	244
Do. do. in appeals from convictions	40
	284

MAURITIUS.

III.

Civil cases	1,545
Criminal cases	121
Total number of civil and criminal cases tried before the Supreme Court during the year 1866	1,666

(Signed) FRED. HERCHENRODER,
Registrar.

I.

RETURN of New Civil Cases before the Supreme Court of Mauritius, during the year 1867.

Actions exceeding 100*l.*	1,026
Actions not exceeding 100*l.*	272
Appeals from judgments of magistrates	27
Bankruptcy cases	27
Arrangements under the control of the Court	18
Cessio bonorum	29
	1,399

II.

RETURN of Criminal Cases tried in the Supreme Court of Mauritius during the same year.

Cases tried at assizes	51
Appeals from convictions of district magistrates	13
	64
Number of prisoners tried at assizes	136
Do. do. in appeals from convictions	30
	166

III.

Civil cases	1,399
Criminal cases	64
Total number of civil and criminal cases tried before the Supreme Court of Mauritius during the year 1867	1,463

(Signed) FERD. HERCHENRODER,
Registrar.

RETURN of the Written Orders made out and issued by the Judges (in Chambers) of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, during the two years from 1st January 1866 to 1st January 1868.

Number of orders during 1866	3,339
Do. do. 1867	3,361
Total	6,700

(Signed) H. R. DOWSON,
Clerk to the Acting Chief Judge.

Chambers, Supreme Court,
22d January 1868.

Crime.

The disastrous fever epidemic which devastated the island during the year 1867 could not fail to work its effect on crime. Thus it will be seen that in comparison with 1866 there was a very considerable reduction in the number of cases, and of persons tried at the assizes for serious offences.

This decrease may in a great measure be ascribed to actual diminution of crime (arising from the above cause), rather than from any want of detection, and of bringing to justice. And this opportunity may be taken to observe that much as the police force of the Colony suffered from the epidemic, and great as was the additional duty cast upon them, decimated as they were with fever, it is due to that department of the service to testify to the praiseworthy manner in which every grade performed their

duty, surmounting difficulties, and in addition to their normal duties, affording most valuable assistance to the sick and destitute. Although their strength and efficiency was much crippled by disease, yet I believe that the cause of justice did not materially suffer. The fever having committed the worst of its ravages on the back streets and over-crowded dwellings, the criminal portion of the community, as is usual in such case, suffered more than any other, the decrease in crime may therefore be fairly attributed to the diminution of the population from whence the greater number of criminals are drawn rather than to any actual moral reformation or want of detection.

2. Under these circumstances, no very reliable result or conclusion can be drawn by any comparison between 1867 and any previous year; nevertheless, it is to be remarked that the total number of persons charged and cases tried rather exceed 1865, and bear a close average to the previous years, leading to the inference that crime must rather be on the increase than decreasing in the Colony.

3. As regards capital offences, there have been 14 persons charged on 12 separate accusations of murder; of these, three were convicted of the capital charge, two of whom were executed and the other reprieved, the remainder were found guilty of manslaughter, except one, against whom a Nolle prosequi was entered, and none were acquitted. As is usually the case in this Colony, the origin of these crimes was, in the greater number of cases, jealousy and quarrels about women in the Indian portion of the population (by whom all these crimes were committed), and the victims for the most part females, as the following table shows:

Sex of Victim.		Motive of Crime.						Remarks.
Male.	Female.	Jealousy.	Robbery.	Revenge.	Drunken Quarrel.	Other Causes.		
3	10	9	3	1	—	—	—	One Indian tried on double charge of murder.

The above table substantiates the remarks previously made by Mr. Dickson and myself on the subject of the substitution of decapitation for hanging. With hardly an exception, the prisoners charged with the murder of a female committed the deed whilst under feelings of jealousy (frequently without foundation), and went to the scaffold with exultation, or on the other hand, expressed regret at not being hanged if the verdict against them only amounted to "manslaughter."

4. A rise in the number of cases of "wounds and blows wilfully inflicted, without intention to kill, "but which nevertheless caused death" is observable, and this may be accounted for from the number of persons who, during the past year, suffered from organic disease, principally of enlargement of the spleen arising from repeated attacks of fever, and who, when subjected to the slightest bodily shock, were liable to instantaneous death. Thus it occurred that many persons were indicted under this article of the law for assaults which, had they been inflicted on healthy subjects, would have been harmless and trivial.

Under the head of Wounds and Blows causing sickness, is a case in which 25 Lascar seamen of a British ship mutinied in the harbour of Port Louis, and violently assaulted the master and other officers of the vessel. The case was a serious one, as the death of the master resulted indirectly from the wounds inflicted on him, and had not technical difficulties intervened, the parties would have been tried for murder. Two cases of coining, a crime which has long been dormant in the Island, have been tried, this year; the two offences related to the same gang, and may be considered exceptional, as there is no reason to suppose that false coining exists to any extent, if at all, in the Colony.

Under the head of "Rape" is included those cases which are embraced under the Ordinance No. 12 of 1866, for having sexual connexion with children under nine years of age, where no actual "violence" can be proved to have been used.

Of the four cases brought to trial, three were tried under counts based upon this Ordinance, and the full term of two years' imprisonment was inflicted on those who were convicted. Adverting therefore to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 10, of the 26th March 1867, it may be remarked that the offences punishable under the new law have not, up to the present time, shown any signs of increase, and although the maximum punishment is considerably less than that of the English law, yet from the trial of two years which the Ordinance has undergone, it appears to have worked well and accomplished the object for which it was framed. A diminution will also be remarked in the number of gang robberies by night, with violence, an offence which for some years had been on the increase, and assumed a somewhat serious character from the fact that the perpetrators were organized in bands and were exceedingly difficult of detection. They were chiefly Madras Indians of the vagrant class, and their depredations were usually upon shopkeepers of their own nation. These malefactors doubtlessly suffered heavily by the fever epidemic, but from the active measures that have been taken for several years past to put down this very dangerous crime, it may be reasonably hoped that, with the increased supervision of the vagrants, and the more ample power which by the Ordinance now under consideration of the Home Government has been confided in the authorities, this offence may be shortly removed from our criminal annals.

(Signed) JULES L. COLIN,
Actg. Sub. Proc.-General.

Return of Crimes prosecuted before the Supreme Court from 1863 to 1867 inclusive.

	1863.					1864.					1865.					1866.					1867.				
	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Persons convicted of lesser charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Persons convicted of lesser charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Persons convicted of lesser charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Persons convicted of lesser charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Persons convicted of lesser charged.
	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.			
Murder (or attempt to murder)	9	20	6	2	12	10	13	5	5	3	14	33	1	27	5*	21	47	14	8	24*	12	14	1	3	10
Manslaughter	5	19	—	1	18	1	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	5	7	2	2	3	2	2	—	—	2
Wounds and blows causing death	5	11	—	9	2	4	4	1	3	—	3	5	—	5	—	6	6	2	4	—	9	9	2	5	2
Do. causing sickness	5	9	6	3	—	3	6	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	2	6	—	2	26	—	26	—
Involuntary homicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poisoning (not fatal) for purpose of larceny	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3	7	4	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape and attempt to rape	4	8	2	6	—	2	3	1	2	—	2	2	1	1	—	7	7	2	5	—	4	5	3	2	—
Bigamy	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crimes	2	4	2	2	—	2	2	1	1	—	2	2	1	1	—	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perjury and subornation	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Placing stones on railway	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larceny — by gangs of burglars by night with violence to persons	16	106	38	67	1	19	111	37	64	—	7	24	12	12	—	14	79	30	49	—	5	15	3	12	—
Larceny — on highway without violence	2	3	1	2	—	5	26	13	13	—	3	18	4	14	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	5	—	5	—
Larceny — without violence, domestic larceny, &c., &c.	2	3	2	1	—	2	2	—	2	—	8	12	3	9	—	13	26	6	20	—	10	21	3	18	—
Receiving stolen property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	3	3	—	8	27	15	12	—	7	17	8	9	—
Embezzlement	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	3	3	2	1	—	2	2	1	1	—
Forgery	4	3	1	2	—	5	6	1	5	—	6	10	3	7	—	6	8	—	8	—	5	5†	1	3‡	—
Swindling, extortion, &c.	1	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malicious damage to property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	8	11	4	7	—	9	11	8	3	—	7	7	3	4	—	7	8	4	4	—	4	7	5	2	—
Conniving at escape, &c. &c. of prisoners	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	—
Coining	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	—
Total	64	199	63	103	33	72	196	75	108	3	64	131	36	90	5	101	236	85	123	27	68	133	28	90	14

* One person found insane, 1865–66.

† One died before trial.

‡ One tried on two charges.

Legislation, 1867.

Among the many important laws which were passed by the Council of Government during 1867, the Ordinance No. 31 of that year is the first in point of public utility to be noticed in reviewing the legislation of the period.

The introduction into Mauritius of labourers from India had been carried on under various systems, each of which required in a greater or lesser degree an amended legislation as regards the rights and duties of the immigrant during his sojourn in the Colony; but it had long been customary to leave the laws of one system to continue in force, while new principles crept in with succeeding Ordinances which were only intended to amend the previous laws, and this course gave rise to so much confusion that it was resolved to consolidate the greater part of the Ordinances on this important subject. The time chosen for doing so was deemed the more suitable, inasmuch as the local Ordinance No. 16 of 1862, and the Indian Act, No. 13 of 1864, on immigration, seemed by their satisfactory working during several years to have placed on a permanent basis the present system of introducing labourers into the Colony.

Moreover, the organic legislation on masters and servants in Mauritius, which had had in view the protection and control of the working classes just emerging from slavery, was ill-adapted to the more enlightened condition of the actual labourers of the Colony, and to the excellent relations now existing in this Colony between employers and the employed.

It had also become urgent to place more decisive checks upon vagrancy, the besetting sin of our Indian immigrant population, and to introduce many other useful provisions as to task-work, wages, tickets, arrest for desertion, vacant estates, procedure in the stipendiary courts, &c., of which the want had been recognized.

To meet these various requirements, the Ordinance No. 31 of 1867 was passed; it reproduces the clauses of previous Ordinances, of which the utility had been confirmed by experience, and it contains many salutary provisions on the points above mentioned.

This law, when published as a draft of law for public information, occupied the attention of the public and of the local press to an unusual degree, and was warmly received by the community, who, with reason, anticipated from its provisions much benefit to the social order and prosperity of the Colony.

The 74th article of the law enables the Governor to empower the clerks of the stipendiary magistrates to carry on, in lieu of the latter, certain formal duties, such as the signing of contracts of service, &c.; this provision was introduced to facilitate the working of a scheme of economy, by the consolidation of the district and stipendiary magistracies. The law, however, was not to take effect until approved by the Home Government, and nevertheless it was urgent that the magistrates of those districts in which the consolidation had been effected, should be at once relieved from the performance of those duties; the temporary Ordinance No. 32, of 1867 was therefore passed to afford that relief pending the coming into operation of the principal law.

No. 1.

As a consequence of the prison reforms, which had taken place during the past four years, the question of the treatment of youthful offenders in gaol was taken up, and two experimental institutions were created, with the object of separating juvenile offenders from adults of the criminal class; these establishments were undoubtedly an improvement on the former practice of unclassed association, but the good derived from them was limited, as they had to be carried on under the general system of gaol discipline applicable to grown-up prisoners, a principal evil of which was that it allowed the juvenile offender to return to the evil society of his former companions so soon as his sentence, which seldom exceeded a few weeks' or months' detention had expired; moreover, children could not be removed from this corrupt association until they had violated the law, when it was often too late to undo their criminal training. At the same time, the Colony, less favoured in this respect than the mother country, possessed no industrial school, or other such institution supported by private benevolence, wherein the reformation of such children might be attempted.

It thus became necessary for the Government to establish reformatory schools, the subject of the Ordinance No. 1. That law provides for the detention at a reformatory school, until the age of 15, of juvenile offenders, and of children not under proper control, for their discipline and instruction during their confinement, and for their employment at the conclusion thereof.

The cardinal provisions of the Ordinance were borrowed from the Imperial statutes, 17 & 18 Vict., c. 86., and 19 & 20 Vict., c. 28.

Nos. 18 and 20.

An important improvement on the law relating to irregular successions, namely, successions falling to illegitimate relatives, was effected by the Ordinances Nos. 18 and 20. Previously, the judicial costs connected with the formalities of being sent into possession of an irregular succession were oftentimes so considerable as to exceed the value of the property itself, whereas legitimate heirs were held by the Civil Code to be invested as of right with the estate accruing to them.

This distinction was found in practice to be the cause of so much hardship to small proprietors entitled to irregular successions, that the law was amended to enable them to be sent into possession in the same manner as legitimate heirs.

No. 16.

The Government having set up lines for electric telegraph along the railway, a law (No. 16) was passed to regulate the transmission and delivery of messages, and to protect the lines from injury. The Ordinance provides for the punishment of telegraph officers, in cases of breach of confidence, &c., for the arrest and trial of persons wilfully damaging the material of the telegraph, and for the levying of charges and their recovery. The subordinate rules, subject to which the public are entitled to make

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use of the electric telegraph, are framed apart from the Ordinance by the Governor in Executive Council.

No. 7.

By the law of the Colony the Master of the Supreme Court, before whom all judicial sales of real estate are made, is the depositary of very large sums of money, consisting of deposits of sale-price, fees of office, stamp duty, and costs of registration.

While the late Mr. Robert Temple held that office, he brought to the notice of the Government the insufficiency of the system then in force for the safe keeping of the monies passing through his department. A Committee was thereupon appointed to fix on a plan of deposit and refund, which should guarantee to the Government and the public the safety of sums lodged with the master, and should prevent the commission of abuses in matters of money on the part of an unscrupulous or dishonest officer.

The result of the labours of the Committee is the Ordinance No. 7, which requires all such deposits to be made under the form of a bank cheque drawn in favour of the Colonial Treasurer, and all sums refunded to be paid by that officer on a cheque issued by the master. Under this system fraud becomes almost impracticable, as the receipts and payments of the master are confined, as far as possible, to representative instead of actual values.

No. 33.

At the instance of the members of the profession, the laws on sworn land surveyors were revised in Ordinance No. 33, in order to render more secure rights which were daily infringed with impunity, to provide for the regular deposit of memoranda of survey at the Archives Office, and to amend the tariff of fees payable in matters of survey.

No. 13.

It was found necessary to impose additional custom duties on wine, beer, and porter, in order to provide for the expenses incurred for additional rolling stock on the railway, and to meet the cost of erecting the electric telegraph.

Nos. 2, 25, 29, 30.

These Ordinances were passed to secure the revenue of the Colony, which, having fallen off on several important items, was not equal to the expenditure, although all possible reductions had been made on that side.

No. 11.

The finances of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis were placed on a more satisfactory footing than they had hitherto been by the Ordinance No. 11, which, by raising from 5*l.* to 10*l.*, the maximum amount of poor rates payable annually by any person, relieved the municipality from the burden which it had long borne of furnishing a yearly subsidy of never less than 2,000*l.* from its general revenues, to make up the difference which always occurred between the receipts and expenditure of the Poor Relief Committee of the town.

The same law also provided for a more complete collection of poor rates and municipal taxes, by enabling the corporation to recover these on attaching in the hands of persons owing money to rate-payers the sums claimed from the latter.

No. 15.

As the Procureur-General of Mauritius is a member of the Executive Council, which is at times required to sit as a Land Court, he is unable to represent the Ministère Public before that court, and that duty is therefore performed by his substitute.

In consequence, however, of certain departmenal arrangements, it happened that the joint duties of Acting Procureur-General and Substitute Procureur-General were for a time carried on by one officer, and it then became necessary to pass this temporary Ordinance, to provide, during that interval, for the representation of the Ministère Public before the Land Court.

No. 6.

During the fearful epidemic of 1867 the mortality was so great that the officers of Civil Status charged with the registration of deaths, were unable to overtake their work, and it was found expedient to appoint assistant officers of Civil Status at several points in each district, in order to avoid delaying the interment of corpses, and for public convenience. The declarations so received are rendered valid by the Ordinance No. 6.

Nos. 9 and 14.

These Ordinances were passed to provide for the repayment, by additional direct taxation on the Roman Catholic inhabitants of two districts, of an advance made at their request from the Colonial Treasury, to enable them to repair the churches of their respective parishes.

No. 12.

Unnecessary restrictions having been imposed upon the introduction of dogs in the Colony at a time when hydrophobia was very prevalent an application was made by the inhabitants for a relaxation of the rule, to enable passengers by the overland mail, or from Australia, &c., to land dogs in Mauritius.

This is now made lawful by Ordinance No. 12, which at the same time provides against the landing of dogs labouring under dangerous maladies.

No. 22.

The period during which it is prohibited to hunt deer is specified in the game laws of the Colony as being between the 1st September and 15th May following. As, however, it is recognized that the

circumstances of the season may render it advantageous that some discretionary power should exist to authorize hunting during that period, or a portion thereof, the Ordinance No. 22 was passed to enable the Governor to do so by Proclamation.

No. 4.

This Ordinance had in view the carrying out of sentences of death by decapitation instead of by hanging. I have nothing to add to the recommendation of Mr. Dickson, and of the late Mr. Douglas, as to the advisability of effecting this change in the Penal Code; but I fully concur in the views expressed by them, and I believe the law would have had a most salutary effect on the criminal portion of the Indian population of Mauritius.

(Signed) J. L. COLIN,
Act. Proc. and Adv. General.

1st July 1868.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HARRY ST. GEORGE ORD, C.B., to the Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 41.)

MY LORD, Government House, Singapore, February 10, 1869.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in the Despatch No. 219, 27 October 1868, of His Grace the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, I have the honour to forward a Report on the Blue Book of the Settlements for the year 1867 forwarded in my Despatch, No. 179, 28 August 1868.

2. I explained to His Grace in my Despatch, No. 252, of 21st December 1868, that I had refrained from making a Report on the Blue Book of the previous year, finding great difficulty in obtaining information respecting the past state of the Colony, whilst such as I possessed was given in a form which rendered its comparison with the present state of the Settlements extremely difficult, and the principal object of a Report on the Blue Book being to show by comparison with previous Reports in what respects the Colony was advancing or retrograding, I thought it better to defer making a Report until the completion of the Blue Book for 1868 should give me reliable grounds for such a comparison.

3. His Grace's instructions are, however, peremptory to make a Report, and I have the honour to state as regards the nine months of the year to which the book relates.

Taxes.—Fees.

4. There has been no alteration since the transfer in the taxes and fees levied in the Settlements, the former are principally received from excise duties on opium and spirits, and from a stamp duty, in fact of a revenue of about a million of dollars five eighths are derived from these two sources. The others are lands, rents, port dues, and fines, and the balance is made up of the re-imbursement of expense incurred on account of the Indian Convicts and from the Municipalities towards the support of the police.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. These have been—

Revenue - - - -	£192,948
Expenditure - - - - -	183,783

There are no means of comparing this with the revenues of the preceding years, the accounts of the Indian Government not being kept in a form to admit of a comparison. There appears no doubt that there has been an increase in the revenue.

6. In addition to the foregoing there was received and appropriated by the municipality in the management of the towns at the three Settlements, and also in contributing to the support of the police

Revenue - - - -	£50,655
Expenditure - - - - -	46,413

Public Debt.

7. The only public debt is a small sum of 19,541*l.*, part of a sum of 42,500*l.* authorized to be taken from the deposits of Suitors in the Supreme Court, at an interest

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

of from four to five per cent., for the purpose of meeting certain heavy charges entailed by the necessity of building a Government House and providing new steamers for the service of the Colony.

Military Contribution.

8. The Colony is to pay 59,300*l.* per annum for the cost of its military protection, but Her Majesty's Government does not appear to have decided finally what the force allotted for this purpose shall be.

Volunteers.

9. There is a small body of volunteers at Singapore consisting of a company of rifles which was raised on the outbreak of the mutiny in India in 1857 and was the first of the corps which that event called into existence.

Public Works.

10. The expenditure under this head has not been large and the principal efforts of the department have been directed to the building of the Government House, which is greatly needed, the Governor being at present lodged in a very small and incommodious private residence for which the high rent of 700*l.* per annum is paid.

Legislative.

11. Thirty-two Acts were passed during the session; some of the earlier made provision for alterations rendered necessary in consequence of the transfer in the adoption of the dollar currency in lieu of the rupee, and the mode of converting old currency into new. The Excise and Stamp Acts were amended, hackney carriages and passenger ships regulated, and an important measure called the "Preservation of the Peace Act" was passed for the purpose of enabling the Government to deal with cases of rioting arising out of the action of the Chinese secret societies.

Imports and Exports.

12. These amounted to—

Imports - - - -	£7,911,032
Exports - - -	6,183,268
Total - -	£14,094,290

This would give an average total of each for the whole year of—

Imports - - - -	£7,729,085
Exports - - -	9,088,780
And a grand total of - -	£17,617,865

From such return as we possess it would appear that the trade under the Indian Government was of late years larger than this. Taking the three last years given, and converting the rupees at two shillings sterling, we find—

	1863-64.	1864-65.	1865-66.
Imports - -	£8,520,555	£8,876,376	£9,700,195
Exports - -	8,325,371	9,693,941	9,924,088
Total -	£16,845,926	£18,570,317	£19,624,283

I am unable to account for this result.

Shipping.

13. The return of shipping cleared from the Colony would also appear by comparison with those returns not to be increasing:—

	Tons.
It amounted for nine months to - - -	664,635
Which for the year would represent - - -	830,793
It was under the Indian Government 1863–64 - -	761,670
" " " 1864–65 - -	790,407
" " " 1865–66 - -	908,410

This is not capable of explanation.

Crimes.

14. It must be admitted that crime is frequent amongst the Malay and Chinese population. In the case of the former it constantly takes the form of what is known as "gang robbery," when a party of natives meet by concert at night at the house of some person known to possess money and make a sudden attack, killing and wounding every one in the way until the house is cleared, when they plunder it, and as they are generally men from a different village or quarter, too often get off with their plunder undetected.

15. The Chinese are more addicted to robbery except when excited by hostile feelings against a different secret society, or hoey as they are called, when they break out into acts of great violence. During the month of August, George Town, Penang, was the scene of most violent riots arising from this cause and many lives were lost by both the rival societies, the Ghee Hins and the Toh-peh-Kongs, whilst great destruction of property was caused by fire and plundering.

16. Steps are being taken to deal with these outbreaks, but unless by the exercise of greater vigilance on the part of the police and an increase of this force, I do not see much probability of our being able to cope sufficiently with what may be termed the ordinary crime of the Settlements.

17. In obedience to the instructions in the Despatch of his Grace the Secretary of State, No. 241, 26 November 1868, I have the honour to forward a report by Lieut.-Governor Anson, Penang, on the Blue Book for 1867 for that Settlement.

18. I also enclose a minute by Captain Playfair, acting Lieut.-Governor of Malacca, on the Report on that Settlement which was furnished by Mr. Cairns directly to the late Secretary of State, together with a return showing the total annual amount received by the different magistrates in the Settlements in the way of salary, travelling allowance, fees, or under any other head, also the number of days each court sits, the distance of each court from head quarters or from the next court, the arrangement of the circuit and the number of cases heard thereat. His Grace's instructions limited this return to the magistrate at Malacca, but I have thought it better to supply the information in question for all the magistrates in the Settlements; this enables it to be seen at a glance what is the nature and extent of the duty they perform and the remuneration they receive for it.

19. His Grace's request to be supplied with information respecting the occupation of the Stadt House shall be complied with very shortly. I have before me a scheme by which I think it will be possible to turn this residence to good account and at very small expense. Mr. Cairns' suggestion respecting the conversion of the gaol into a residence for the Governor and Chief Justice on their visits is simply impracticable, so long as transmarine convicts are retained in the Settlement, and it would be a most unwise and extravagant waste of the public money to appropriate a building of this character to such a purpose even if it were not required as a place of confinement for prisoners.

20. His Grace states that he sees no reason why the expenses of Malacca should continually exceed its revenue, and desires me to report my view as to the steps which should be taken to equalize the revenue and expenditure. When I state that this has baffled the endeavours of the Government of India for many years past your Lordship will I trust not be surprised that I am unprepared to offer any solution of the question. The discrepancy between the revenue and expenditure of this Settlement has long engaged my attention and I hope to be in a position to address your Lordship on the matter at no very distant date.

21. I do not notice anything else in Mr. Cairns' report on which it seems necessary that I should address your lordship at length. His Grace justly observed that several of the matters Mr. Cairns brought under the notice of the Secretary of State should properly have formed in the first instance the subject of communications to the Governor, and had Mr. Cairns thought proper to express his views upon them to me I should readily have entered into the consideration of them with him.

22. I must add that I hold an entirely different opinion from Mr. Cairns as to the expediency of endeavouring to place the means of obtaining justice within the reach of the poor to as great an extent as is consistent with a reasonable economy. With this end I have during the last winter directed the magistrate at Malacca to increase the number of the stations at which he holds court, and it will be seen after a reasonable trial whether the views I entertain of the great boon that this will be to the people, and the extent to which it will be appreciated by them, views in which in which Acting Lieut.-Governor Playfair fully concurs, are borne out by the result, and also whether the additional expense is commensurate with the advantage gained. If the experiment proves

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successful I shall probably carry out a similar measure in Province Wellesley and possibly to some extent in Penang. The Island of Singapore is so small and the town so readily accessible that a measure of this sort is not required in the Settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

No. 1,055.

Lieut.-Governor's Office.
Prince of Wales Island, Dec. 21, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Report on the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1867.

2. The transfer of the Settlement to the Colonial Government having taken place only on the 1st April, and having myself taken over charge of it from the Resident Councillor appointed under the Indian Government only on 8th June, together with the absence of Blue Books for former years, and the different method of arranging documents and returns under the late Government, render it impossible for me to furnish a comprehensive Report for this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency the Governor,
Straits Settlement.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1867.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

1. The principal taxes are those levied on opium, spirits, toddy, and pawn shops, all of which are farmed out. A tax is also levied by the municipality of 10 per cent. on all houses and 5 per cent. on all lands throughout the Settlement, about one half of which is paid into the Government Treasury to cover the cost of the police and magistrates' establishments. The amount paid by the municipality on this account during the year was 7,347*l.* 15*s.* 11¾*d.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue shown in the Blue Book return for 1867 is only for the nine months during which the Settlement has been under the Colonial Government. The return for 1866 is an average of nine months for that year. The financial year under the Indian Government commenced on the 1st April, and the alteration to 1st January in accordance with the colonial rule renders it impossible to make any comparison between the revenue of this and former years.

3. The chief sources of revenue are the farms which were let on 1st May at the following rates:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Opium Farm - - - -	20,017	10	0	per annum.
Spirit Farm - - - -	15,096	0	0	„
Toddy Farm - - - -	1,313	5	0	„
Pawnshop Farm - - -	2,524	10	0	„

The riots in August caused a reduction in the revenue from stamps, land, and fees of court.

Local Revenue.

4. The revenue of the municipality, which is derived from taxes levied throughout the whole Settlement, was 14,102*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, rather more than one half of which was, as has been already stated, paid to the Government on account of the police and magistrates' departments.

5 Out of this revenue the cost of the conservancy of George Town, the repairs to roads, and bridges, and waterworks in Prince of Wales Island, and the construction of ferry boats and their landing places in Province Wellesley has to be defrayed. The roads and bridges in Province Wellesley are constructed and repaired at the cost of Government.

Public Works.

6. In consequence of the transfer being about to take place very small sums were voted by the late Government under this heading for the year's expenditure. Only minor works have therefore been carried out.

Legislation.

7. The Legislative Council met twice in the Settlement after the riots and passed two Acts, viz.:—

No. 21. An Act to authorize a commission of inquiry into the origin and causes of the riots at Penang.

No. 22. An Act to indemnify officers of Government and other persons for proceedings during the recent riots in Penang.

Civil Establishments.

8. It is probable that the cost of these will before long be augmented in consequence of new appointments, of the general low rates of the salaries of the inferior class of office holders, and the increasing cost of living in the Settlement.

Pensions.

9. Amongst those to whom pensions are payable out of the revenues of the Settlement is the Rajah of Quedah. This pension was granted in 1801 to a predecessor of the present Rajah in return for his giving over the Island of Penang to the East India Company. The amount is 2,125*l.* per annum.

Population.

10. It is doubtful whether the figures representing the population of the Settlement which, as taken at the last census, is stated to have been 124,672 persons of both sexes, are to be relied on. But supposing them to be so as there is neither registration of births nor deaths in the Settlement, nor any account taken of the increase by immigration, it is impossible to give a fair estimate of the present population, but there is every reason to believe that it has been steadily increasing, and that the sexual disparity has been gradually decreasing.

Ecclesiastical.

11. The chaplain appointed under the Indian administration not having been relieved by a chaplain appointed under the Colonial Government has continued to minister to the Protestant community. The attendants at the Protestant church are estimated at 125, and those at the Roman Catholic church, over which a bishop presides, at from 600 to 700. The great portion of the population, including the Malays, are Mussulmans. There are also Chinese, Budhists, and Hindoos. Very little success has hitherto attended the labours of the missionaries. The Roman Catholics number amongst their congregations the Mulatto descendants of the early Portuguese settlers in the Straits.

Education.

12. But little has been done for the education of the general population. The number of scholars attending the schools under European instruction is as follows:—

	No. of Pupils.
Free school, with a grant in aid from Government of 255*l.* per annum	250 males.
School of the Chrétien Frères	150 „
Roman Catholic Orphanage	90 females.
Convent Boarding School for the better class	40 „
Mission School of the Plymouth Brethren, with a grant in aid from Government of 76*l.* 10*s.* per annum, since abandoned	61 males.

13. There are two Vernacular schools in Province Wellesley, and there is one in Prince of Wales Island, all of which are supported by Government, viz.:—

	No. of Pupils.
Bukit Tamboon, Province Wellesley	20 males.
Permatang Pow	20 „
Glugor, Prince of Wales Island	30 „

14. There is a number of small schools kept by Hajis, but little else is taught in them beyond reading Malay, and this only with the view of learning the Koran.

Moneys, &c.

15. The introduction of the Hong Kong dollar in place of the rupee has been effected and the half dollar, twenty, ten, and five cent. pieces are found to be a great convenience to the public and have been readily received into circulation.

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Imports and Exports.

16. The imports from the United Kingdom figure at 284,383*l.*, and the exports at 488,544*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* The most considerable trade is carried on with Sumatra, the exports to which country are estimated at 1,576,970*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and the imports therefrom at 308,042*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.* The imports and exports are steadily increasing.

Grants of Land.

17. The greater part of the land, and the best of it, has been disposed of, and unfortunately at so low a rate that in many instances it has been taken up by persons of such very limited means that they have been unable to do anything towards its improvement.

Gaols and Prisoners.

18. The construction and economy of the gaols admit of improvement. The number of transmarine convicts is decreasing, and it appears probable that in a few years there will be none left in gaol.

19. There are two gaols in Prince of Wales Island, one for transmarine convicts and for prisoners sentenced to the house of correction, the two classes of prisoners being located in separate parts of the same building. This gaol is under the charge of the assistant engineer, who also bears the title of superintendent of convicts. The other gaol is under the charge of the sheriff, and occupied by prisoners awaiting trial or under sentence of death, and by debtors.

20. There is a small prison at Butterworth, in Province Wellesley, for prisoners condemned by the Province Magistrate and for a few transmarine convicts employed at work on the roads.

21. The transmarine convicts, who are mostly from India, generally behave well, and many of those on tickets-of-leave form the most respectable portion of our Indian population.

Crime.

22. A great amount of crime preceded and was the accompaniment of the outbreak of the riots of August and swelled the criminal returns beyond their usual proportions.

Charitable Institutions.

23. The hospitals remained under the charge of the assistant surgeon of the Indian establishment. There are two general hospitals, viz., one in Prince of Wales Island and the other in Province Wellesley. The former is pretty well adapted to the requirements of the island, but is situated at an inconvenient distance from town for the removal to it of bad cases of sickness and cases of accident requiring immediate treatment. The Province Hospital will require alteration and extension when the new medical establishment of the Colony shall have been organized.

24. The daily average number of patients in the hospitals during the year was as under:—

General Hospital, Prince of Wales Island - - -	42
Do. Province Wellesley - -	14
Transmarine Convict Hospital, Prince of Wales Island -	24
Do. Do. Province Wellesley -	7
House of Correction Hospital - - -	8
Colonial Jail Hospital - - - -	2

25. Great improvement is needed in the interior arrangements of the lunatic asylum where all classes of patients are at present domiciled in one room, which from its construction might more properly be designated a cage. The daily average number of patients during the year has been 38.

26. The poor house is under the control of a society named the Anti-Mendicity Society, and is supported by the voluntary contributions of its members. The efforts of the society are insufficient to meet the requirements of the poor of the Settlement, and the society's establishment and the arrangements connected with it are open to great improvement. The daily average number of inmates has been 80.

27. The orphanage at the convent, supported by the exertions and under the control of the sisters of charity, is a very well conducted and useful institution.

General Remarks.

28. The riots which had for some time been fomenting and which burst forth in August, not only put a temporary check upon business but caused loss to the whole mercantile community, and it is to be feared in many instances poverty and suffering to families and individuals.

29. It is, however, to be hoped that the measures taken on this occasion will prove efficacious in preventing any future outbreak. There can be no doubt that the periodical disturbances which have occurred owing to the quarrels of the secret societies have been a great drawback to the advancement of the Settlement, and if their recurrence be not provided against they may lead to its ruin. In other respects the Settlement has been prosperous.

(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

CAPTAIN PLAYFAIR'S REPORT.

After perusal of the accompanying report I beg to offer a few remarks on the following paragraphs:—

Para. 11. With regard to the military establishment, which is at the lowest nominal state at which I should ever wish to see it, formerly there was one third of a company of artillery besides two companies of infantry, this was withdrawn some years ago, and the infantry reduced to its present small number which does not admit of the men having, according to regulation, four nights in bed, and in the event of their services being required on an emergency there would not be more than about 25 men available. Mr. Cairns admits that we live in the midst of unscrupulous people in the surrounding states, who would take advantage of any symptom of weakness on our part; he notes also the dangerous element of the numerous secret societies here, not entirely confined to the Chinese; it seems strange that Mr. Cairns should suggest a reduction of the already small military force, having only one officer with it. I agree with him on one point, that it would be undesirable to have the military composed of Malays such as the "Ceylon Rifles."

Para. 12. The accompanying return shows the work performed in the magistrate's court during the last year. My experience of the duties of this office causes me to come to a different conclusion from Mr. Cairns. The work may occasionally be got through in two or three hours, but in my time such was the exception. In comparing the magistrate's salary with that of other officers whose position is less important and responsibility not so great, I am of opinion that he would be underpaid with 500*l.*, besides he is the responsible person when the Lieut.-Governor is absent in the country, and performs any immediate duty requiring attention during the Lieut.-Governor's absence. I consider that the magistrate's work and position perfectly justify his present salary. Respecting the country courts, I certainly am in favour of upholding them, I look upon them as of vast importance to the people. Mr. Cairns allows that they were necessary when there were gangs of Chinese at the tin mines, but the object of these courts were not to render justice to the miners only but to be of advantage to the general population; the primary object is that the magistrate should go amongst the people, hearing and settling disputes, &c., instead of these people having to leave their houses and come long distances in search of justice; at the same time, I admit, that unless the magistrate himself can speak the language to these people the advantage we seek to afford them is wholly lost, as being unaccustomed to the town courts, where interpreters are used, they are suspicious and distrustful of any interpretation, therefore, instead of reducing the magistrate's pay, I would recommend that he be called upon to pass an examination in the colloquial, in order to be able to talk to these country people; I should say that in six months this could easily be accomplished.

Para. 16. Here Mr. Cairns mentions that a small fee is imposed on the shipping on account of port clearances, this is a mistake as no charge has ever been made on this account.

Para. 29. I am not aware that there is any question at present of withdrawing the transmarine convicts, and as long as they are here the whole of the existing accommodation is required, and the present system of management indespensable; however, arrangements are at present being made for accommodating his Excellency the Governor or his Honour the Chief Justice in the Stadt House, during their periodical visits, that building being allotted at the same time as the permanent residence of the Lieut.-Governor.

Paras. 32 and 33. I forward a distribution return of convict orderlies as they exist at present, but as there is a general complaint that convicts are not in sufficient numbers available for municipal roads in towns, so many being employed on the country roads, I agree with Mr. Cairns, that the orderlies should all be withdrawn from private houses, as printed in italic in the return, making 12 available, leaving only those employed as punkah pullers in public offices. The town roads are much in want of thorough repairs.

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Para. 45. The Survey Department being one of the most important in this Settlement I consider that every effort should be made to place it on an efficient footing; at present work proceeds very slowly. An account of the reduced state of the establishment, consequent on the sickness and death of several of the subordinates, considering that our revenue is entirely controlled by the survey, I would recommend that every inducement be held forth to secure efficient hands to keep up this department to its full strength.

Para. 53. I entirely concur with Mr. Cairns in his remarks about gambling, the most strenuous efforts of the authorities to suppress this vice have hitherto failed and will I fear always prove perfectly useless owing to the native police being unable to resist the temptation of bribes. After 12 years experience, since the Act of 1856 was passed, seeing that the evil has not lessened, I would recommend that as we are unable to suppress it, we ought to control it by licensing a farm. I have known instances of people being brought up for gambling several times being fined the highest amounts; they simply pay the fine and resume the same course the next day.

Para. 55. I cannot agree with the recommendation of a cadet being appointed here, the work in the marine and post offices is very trifling and is carried on satisfactorily at present by the clerks employed. With regard to the appointment of deputy commissioner it was recommended as far back as 1859 that he should be invested with small magisterial powers to settle minor cases and control the collection of the land revenue, these powers however have never been granted to him. I agree so far with Mr. Cairns that a good European inspector is all that is required for the police in town, but considering the number of police in the country and the distances of the stations round the boundary, it is also requisite that some supervision be had over them, and it is impossible that one inspector could do all. Therefore, instead of doing away with the deputy commissioner I would suggest that the power originally recommended be granted to him. I admit it would be a good school for training a cadet, but until by years and experience he gained the knowledge required, and could be entrusted with magisterial powers, I consider his services would be superfluous here.

(Signed) F. L. PLAYFAIR,
Acting Lieut.-Governor.

25th January 1869.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE AND DEPARTMENTAL ORDERLIES.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office	1	
House	*4*	
	—	5
Police Magistrate's Office	1	
House	*3*	
	—	4
Assistant Engineer and Superintendent of Convicts' Office	1	
House	*2*	
	—	3
Colonial Assistant Surgeon, *house*		*2*
Colonial Chaplain, *house*		*1*
Supreme Court Office		1
Survey Department		12
Stadt House, Departmental Tindals	2	
Toty	1	
Invalid	1	
	—	4
Government Garden		4
Country Bungalows		8
Colonial gaol		2
Buket Serindee burial ground		3
Signal serjeant's house	1	
Flag staff	4	
	—	5
Cape Rachado		4
Free school (invalid)		1
Timber shed		2
Rammé cultivation		2
Pauper hospital		2
Head warder		1
Jail hospital		10

Government Lime Kiln.

Manufacturing - - - - - -	5
Cutting firewood at Marlimo - - - -	3
Boatmen conveying coral and firewood - - -	6
	— 14

(Signed) C. A. EVANS,
Superintendent of Convicts.

MEMORANDUM.

The employment of convicts in any menial capacity has always been contrary to the rules of the prison department in the Straits, those few prisoners who have been employed at the Government house, the Lieut.-Governor's houses and the houses of the Comptroller and his officers, are on duty chiefly as messengers and punkah pullers, and on the latter case particularly to be ready to call at night, in the event of anything of importance taking place in the convict prison. Such men are "special service men" selected for the purpose on good behaviour, and are as much on duty as orderlies in the military service. If the late Lieut.-Governor of Malacca made use of them in any other capacity, he probably was not aware of the convict regulations on the subject.

The only exception to this rule is made in the case of warders who reside within the walls of the prison, who are allowed one of these "special men" to cook their meals; this is not unusual in England, and it has here the advantage of keeping the prison free from strange servants, who would doubtless seek opportunity to aid in the escape of their fellow countrymen.

I see no sufficient reason to alter the present arrangement, except on the score of there being a paucity of convicts, as stated by Captain Playfair, but as transportation to the Straits has ceased, this is an expected contingency, and to strengthen the road gangs by removing men from another necessary service would not appear to me to be judicious.

(Signed) J. F. A. MCNAIR,
Comptroller of Convicts.

February 16, 1869.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a LETTER from Lieutenant-Governor CAIRNS to Sir FREDERIC ROGERS, Bart.

SIR, London, October 31, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to forward the information required by your letter of the 28th instant, in elucidation of the Blue Book Returns for 1867.

I could have wished that it had been less imperfect, but not having been made aware that a covering letter, of the nature of a special report, ought to accompany the returns, or, in other words, that the report of the Governor would not be deemed sufficient as a *resumé* of the condition of the three Settlements, I contented myself with embodying in the returns themselves such observations for his Excellency's guidance as were suggested by the different headings which I was called upon to fill up.

Being now without the opportunity of consulting my office records, I can only trust that due allowance will be made for the necessarily hasty and general nature of this report.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. During the first nine months of the existence of the Straits Settlements as a Crown Colony, *i.e.*, from the 1st of April to the 31st December 1867, the revenue of those Settlements has amounted to 192,948*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d.* and the expenditure to 183,783*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; thus leaving a satisfactory surplus, which I trust may be found to indicate buoyancy and promise for the future.

2. I regret that the figures representing the total contribution of Malacca to the general revenue, as well as its local expenditure, are not at this moment available; but they would serve to show that the latter exceeds the former by several thousand pounds, and that the oldest of the Settlements is the poorest.

3. This is to be traced to various causes, and mainly to its situation, which is too far removed from the convenient calling places of European commerce, and indeed unsuited by the natural obstacle of its shallow roadstead as a place of resort for merchant vessels of any considerable tonnage.

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4. Had Singapore not passed out of Native hands it might have fared better with this fine old city, still selected as it is by the Straits Chinese as an agreeable retreat from business when once they have accumulated wealth at Singapore, but not as a money-making place, or in the morning of their shrewd and stirring life.

5. Its permanent revenue is, therefore, mainly derived from its land rents and sales, the former producing 1,255*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* in 1867, and the latter 157*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* To these figures must be added the survey fees, amounting to 203*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, while further items of receipt from the same source are described as tenths on commuted lands, tenths on uncommuted lands, town quitrents, fees on the issue of leases, transfer registration, and search fees, and notice and attachment fees (in the case of defaulters).

6. I have purposely given priority to the land revenue, as being a permanent and natural source of income to the State; but first in order of actual pecuniary profit is the Opium and Spirit Farm, sold together for a short term of years, and of which the annual yield is 6,502*l.* 10*s.* The Toddy and Baang Farm produced 133*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and the other farms the following sums:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Tin farm	119	6	4
Pawnbrokers' licences	78	4	0
Timber farm	49	18	9
Brick-kilns	41	17	3
Coral and granite	11	1	0

7. It does not seem necessary to specify in this place the other headings, which are the same, with few exceptions, in the three Settlements; nor am I able to present a comparative statement as a test of the elasticity of the revenue, any tabular account such as should supply this information not having been framed in the public offices prior to their transfer from the Indian to the Colonial Department. It is my belief, however, that in future years, if we except such seasons of drought as occasionally visit the plains of Malacca, the increase of the land revenue will be steadily progressive. Irrigation works, such as we could afford to execute, may not, it is true, do much for so flat a country as spreads far into the interior with but few and shallow streams, and still rarer intervals of rising ground; but there is said to be a noticeable increase of cultivation in recent years, and the Chinese are clearing the jungles where Padi has never before been tried.

8. I turn now to the expenditure for the year, the particulars being as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil establishment	6,623	10	10
Contingent expenditure	893	10	7
Judicial establishment	1,502	13	6
Contingent expenditure	91	12	5
Ecclesiastical establishment	363	19	0
Contingent expenditure	10	5	10
Miscellaneous expenditure	15,715	1	8
Pensions	418	5	6
Making a total of	£25,618	19	4

9. This was exclusive of the cost of the military establishment, for which no separate apportionment is made from the local revenue. The only note-worthy items are the two last; the miscellaneous expenditure, which includes grants to schools, charitable allowances, grant to the pauper and leper hospitals, convict hospital charges, money allowance and rations to the convict department, police charges, local and sheriff's gaol charges, transport, outlay upon works and buildings, roads, streets, and bridges, postal services, fuel for Government steamers, up-keep of lighthouses, harbour department exclusive of establishments, &c., and the payment of pensions, which in two cases are political, Sultan Ali, late Sultan of Johore, receiving an annual allowance of 433*l.* 10*s.*, and Syed Suban, a petty border chief, 231*l.* 16*s.* 4¾*d.*, both for services rendered or advantages granted to the British Government in former years. An old Chinaman, once the recognized head of his community, when it was the practice of the Dutch to select some individual as the responsible representative of his countrymen, enjoys, by agreement, a superannuation allowance of 42*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*; and there are a few pensions drawn by the police, in no case exceeding 9*l.* per annum.

Local Revenues.

10. The Municipality of Malacca is not wealthy; its receipts for the nine months amounted to 2,707*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* and its expenditure to 2,699*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* Its funds are derived from a tax upon lands situated within a four-mile radius, houses, horses, carriages, carts, and a few other items. It is called upon to defray a large part of the cost of the police, with the expenses of the Commissioners' establishment, &c., but, on the other hand, it has hitherto been supplied with prison labour for cleansing the town, and other municipal purposes, without being pressed for payment, although, as a matter of account, it has been debited in the usual way. There is reason to hope that with the growth of material prosperity within the Settlement, which is greatly encouraged at present by large speculations in tapioca, the number of tiled houses, horses, carts, and vehicles of every description, will steadily increase, to the enrichment of the municipality and consequent improvement of the streets and bye-roads in their charge. As things are, the scavenging is done very well, and the better classes are becoming impressed with the advantage of unchoked drains and running water, where stagnation and filth were the rule before.

Military Establishment and Expenditure.

11. Malacca might properly be made a subaltern's command, the force under him to consist of one company of Madras Sepoys. The cost of such an establishment could not be great, although it must be admitted that the local revenue is not adequate to defray it. The case, however, is clearly one in which the Colony as a whole may, for its own advantage and in support of its prestige, be called upon to provide for the expenditure at each of the three Settlements. It is to be borne in mind that we, part-owners of the peninsula, live in the midst of unscrupulous and seething native states, many of them utterly barbarous, where the will of the strongest is the only recognized law, and with whom as neighbours any symptom of weakness on our part would immediately lead to piratical incursions on theirs. With this knowledge and conviction, I would not wholly denude the settlement of a military force. Then as to the question of race, the natives are Malays; all the petty rajahs upon our borders are Malays. Malay secret societies either exist by themselves or are affiliated to the Chinese hoeys. Malay fanaticism is wild, uncalculating, and of rapid growth, and the temptations which chiefs of their own blood and faith might offer would probably be found to tell with fatal effect on their fidelity. I must therefore strongly object to any scheme by which the garrison should be composed of Malays, whether raised as a local force or brought from Ceylon; indeed, rather than introduce such a dangerous element, I should prefer that the military were altogether withdrawn, and their place taken by a strong police force, properly drilled and equipped, to consist of the same class of men as the Sepoys recruited at Madras or in the Punjaub, our present Malay police being of course simultaneously disbanded.

Magistrate's Courts.

12. The business in the minor courts is very light, seldom occupying the magistrate longer than from three to four hours daily. Country courts are held once a month at four and recently five small stations, at distances from Malacca varying from twelve to twenty-one miles; but the cases coming before them are few and unimportant, and in my opinion scarcely justify the expenditure on account of the magistrate's travelling allowance and the gratuity to his interpreter. When tin mining was profitable and brought large gangs of Chinese into the district, a country court was a real advantage to the neighbourhood, procuring speedy justice to be done between man and man, but this condition of things has passed away. In any revision of the establishments, I should be disposed to recommend the reduction of the magistrate and commissioner's salary from 750*l.*, its present amount, to 500*l.* per annum, which would be an adequate return for the duties he is called upon to perform.

Imports and Exports.

13. The return of the Marine or Harbour Department, showing the value of the imports and exports for 1867, has been incorporated in the Blue Book with that framed by the Registrar of Imports and Exports at Singapore. The trade is mainly a coasting trade, carried on by means of schooners and other small craft plying between this port and Singapore, occasionally visiting Penang and the Dutch and Malayan territories within and around the Straits. Two small merchant steamers belonging to Chinese firms are now on the Singapore line, bringing specie and Chinese goods to Malacca, and taking away full cargoes of tin, tapioca, fruit, poultry, gambier, blachang (a preparation

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of shrimps) tiles, Sumatra ponies, rice, dried fish, and other produce either of this Settlement, as in the case of the tapioca, fruit, and poultry, or of places beyond it whence it is brought for shipment. Tin no longer attracts any attention as a local product, but considerable quantities of the metal are shipped here from the adjoining states.

14. The port is a free one, but transhipments to the native territories are generally subjected, on being landed there, to a heavy and capricious black mail. Ammunition is largely purchased in Singapore for the border states, and our local traders are not slow to take advantage of any unusual commotion, to throw in supplies of gunpowder and other munitions of war, a disposition which it has sometimes been my duty to endeavour to keep within bounds.

Shipping.

15. The tonnage of vessels entered at Malacca (the only port at the Settlement) during 1867 was 68,989, of which 494 British vessels represented a tonnage of 62,302, with crews amounting to 9,295, and 125 Foreign vessels a tonnage of 6,687, with crews of 1,347. Of British vessels 50 entered in ballast, their tonnage being 14,973, and of Foreign the number was 23 and the tonnage 1,210. Of vessels cleared the tonnage was 71,120, of which British was 64,760 tons and Foreign 6,360. The number of British vessels was returned at 655, with crews of 11,160, and of Foreign 181 vessels (mostly Dutch and Malayan), with crews of 1,782. Of the total number of vessels cleared 149 were in ballast, representing a tonnage of 14,929 tons.

16. The only charges imposed upon shipping are small fees on account of the port clearance of each vessel, and what are termed the Straits Lights dues at so much a ton, and according to distance, being for the upkeep of the lighthouses and light ship, of which two are off the coast of Malacca (Cape Rachado lighthouse and the "Torch.")

Population.

17. According to the most reliable estimate, the population of Malacca numbers 36,023 males and 31,244 females of all races. The coloured population is set down at 34,578 males and 30,041 females, and the whites (many of whom, however, have some admixture of native blood) are returned at 1,445 males and 1,203 females, making a grand total of 67,267 souls, exclusive of military and transmarine convicts, of which last the number at Malacca is 686. The territory being estimated to have an area of 658 square miles, the population to the square mile would be about 102.

18. It has hitherto been found impossible to ascertain the number of births and marriages occurring among the natives, both Malays and Chinese keeping no record of such events, and rather resenting any interference in this respect. The total deaths obtained from the mortuary returns furnished by the police give the figures 986 for all races. Among the Christians of different sects (the Roman Catholics claiming a great majority) the births are returned at 80, and the marriages at 28. The figures in the corresponding returns for Singapore and Penang are—

Singapore.		Penang.	
Births - -	63	Births - -	59
Marriages -	18	Marriages -	29

But at those settlements only the Christian death-rate is given.

19. Of the population of Malacca quite two-thirds are engaged at the crop season in agricultural pursuits, but many even of these, and some of them natives of the far inland kampongs or hamlets, are occupied in sea-fishing at other times of the year.

20. The Chinese are the chief commercial men of the town, but they also own, or rent upon twenty year leases, large tracts of land suitable for tapioca and other cultivation, while not a few of them farm patches of sugar cane and vegetables, turning their speculation to the best account.

21. The importance of a correct census being taken as soon but as judiciously as possible, it is scarcely necessary for me here to urge. Until the numbering of the people shall have been satisfactorily accomplished, we can but imperfectly feel our way, or estimate our duties, rights, and powers. We must, however, remember that any unusual movement of this kind is apt to suggest suspicion to the ignorant Asiatic mind; as an instance of the reasoning of which I may mention that when, in framing statistics for the Blue Book of the past year, I called upon the punghulus, or headmen, for a return of the cattle and other live stock within the Settlement, the poor villagers, who could see no motive for such a proceeding but a pretext for taxing their flocks and herds, drove their goats into town in large numbers to effect an immediate sale.

22. Of the native or coloured races the great numerical preponderance is with the Malays. Next come the Chinese, many of whom have a semi-Malayan origin, derived through six or more resident generations. Third in importance are the Tamils, or "Klings," also in great part native born, and there are a few Bugis, Arabs, and wild forest tribes known as Mantras, Jaccouns, and Orang Huban, with a sprinkling of islanders from the surrounding states.

Immigration.

23. There is not at present any noticeable immigration from other parts of the Peninsular or from the Islands, although life and property are but little respected there, and taxation scarcely felt within our limits. The Malay is a wild man and prefers a wild life among his people, with the recurring excitement of a perfectly unjustifiable foray and the attraction of spoil to the quiet of a village patrolled by the police. A few Chinese arrive yearly at Malacca, but their numbers are balanced by the departure of those of their countrymen who may have saved a little money as house servants or estate coolies, and who wish to carry their savings to their native land.

Education.

24. There are ten vernacular schools (one of which is Tamil), supported by Government; one superior English school, to which the Government largely contributes; three Roman Catholic mission schools, partly supported by Government and partly dependent on private subscriptions; two Roman Catholic mission schools without any Government grant, and two private schools (but their number is always varying) unconnected with State patronage or any religious body. Within the year it was my reluctant duty to have to recommend that the only Female Protestant School in the Settlement should have the Government grant withheld, as no longer accomplishing any useful purpose. The schoolmistress, although a well-intentioned person, had proved herself unfitted for the proper management of such an institution, and the public had ceased to support her, or to seek instruction for their children at her hands. I am not without hope that in a short time some new arrangement, by which the services of a competent instructress may be secured, may enable me to apply for a renewal of the grant, not only to the Government but to the Church Missionary Society, which (as well as the London Mission) had assisted in creating and maintaining the school.

25. The Boy's English School, also known as the Free School, is now in good hands, and will, I fully expect, attain to increasing popularity among the Chinese, who are already liberal subscribers to its funds. Poor boys are taught without charge, except for books, and for other children a very small monthly charge is made. I have adopted the course of placing several respectable Chinese merchants on the managing committee, of which I am ex-officio president, and of presiding at a monthly visitation of the school, when a partial examination is held. Great care is taken that the education imparted shall be purely secular, and I am glad to say that the strictness with which I have enforced this essential rule has led to an increased attendance of Tamil and Mussulman pupils. The Roman Catholic schools (many of the Free School boys are Catholics) are mainly attended by infants and young children, two being for little girls, and all being well conducted and accomplishing satisfactory results. I visit these institutions with the indefatigable Mission Fathers, whose whole lives are devoted to doing good. Their Mantra or Jaccoun Mission has already civilized and even Christianized many poor degraded creatures (not Mahomedans) of the wildest forest tribes; thanks, in the main, to the life-long zeal and tact of the Reverend Father Borie, a Frenchman, and the founder of what may truly be called a church in the wilderness—a church and a school, for in this instance they are inseparably connected.

26. The vernacular schools give instruction in reading and writing, with, occasionally, a little rudimentary arithmetic. The Koràn is allowed to be used as a reading book for the Malays, and in my opinion wisely, as any attempt to discourage its use would attach suspicion to our motives and perhaps result in the removal of all the boys.

27. The police now attend these schools, and if an inspector of education were appointed, who should visit periodically these and similar institutions throughout the Straits, a great improvement would early follow, both in the nature of the instruction imparted and in the qualifications of the gurus or teachers, who, as a rule, are themselves sadly in want of more light.

28. When a Malay youth has learned to intone his Koràn, which he often does without any clear conception of its meaning, and to write a letter, he is generally taken away from school to be married, or to help in the field; and from that moment literature and he have parted company for ever.

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Gaols and Prisons.

29. There are three such buildings in Malacca, consisting of Her Majesty's, or, as it is often called, the Sheriff's Gaol, the Convict Gaol, and the House of Correction, and all situated within the town. They are kept in the most admirable order, but the time must soon come when the necessity for so much gaol accommodation will no longer exist. As the Indian convicts are likely to be returned, and as the local convicts are but few in number, I should propose to convert Her Majesty's gaol, which is a spacious modern building and well placed, into a suitable temporary residence for his Excellency the Governor and the Judge of the Supreme Court, thus leaving the upper portion of the Stadt House (the lower rooms are occupied by almost all the public departments as offices, and the Lieutenant-Governor's office is here) for the Lieutenant-Governor, who is at present debarred the use of the Government House, for the reason that it is required for the Governor during one month in each year, and for the Judge during another.

30. There are seven wards in the local convict gaol, or House of Correction, and three in the gaol for transmarine convicts. These prisons, as well as the Sheriff's Gaol, have been visited by me at irregular intervals, and without notice given, and I have never had reason to find fault. The only defect is the want of a female attendant, in the rare event of a female prisoner being in custody. On such occasions a woman ought to be hired, but her services need not be of a permanent nature.

31. It should not be overlooked, in a report of this kind, that to the ample supply of transmarine convict labour Malacca owes the creation, extension, and up-keep of most of its road communications, the construction of its bridges, police stations, and other public works and buildings, and that when this supply dies out, or is cut off, hired labour will have to take its place.

32. It has also been the practice to attach convicts to the various public departments and institutions, as watchmen, assistants, or orderlies. Thus, six such messengers attend at the Lieutenant-Governor's house and office, three are told off for the police magistrate, three for the assistant engineer and assistant superintendent of convicts, two for the assistant surgeon, one as punkah puller at the Supreme Court, twelve as field assistants in the Survey Department, three as domestics in the Stadt House, four as Stadt House gardeners, two for the Sheriff's Gaol, five as signallers at the flag-staff, four as attendants at the burial ground, eight as district bungalow keepers, four at Cape Rachado lighthouse, one at the Boys' Free School (as sweeper), three at the Government timber store, two at the Pauper Hospital, two with the superintendent of artificers, while the municipality has been given as many as 30 when the supply of local prisoners has proved insufficient.

33. When transmarine convicts cease to arrive, or are withdrawn, provision must be made for the employment of free labour in the Survey Department, at the flag-staff, and lighthouse, and by the municipality; but I am of opinion that even now a beginning should be made, by reducing the number attached to the Lieutenant-Governor's office, and by wholly withdrawing all such assistants or orderlies from the other departments (with the exceptions stated above). Invalids might still be employed in the Stadt House grounds, but their number should be restricted to three.

34. There are eight convict working parties, each consisting of from 22 to 59 men, with convict overseers, permanently located in the country districts, and employed in the repair of the bridges, and of upwards of 200 miles of admirably kept roads and paths, while smaller bodies of men are told off for special duties, such as clearing the rivers of drift and weeds, guarding the Anicut—an irrigation work at Gadhi, supplying timber for the Government lime kiln, burning charcoal, and quarrying coral; or, as artificers or warders, are engaged within the gaol.

35. The disease to which the convicts are most liable is a type of low fever, known as jungle fever, and contracted in unhealthy parts of the interior. As soon as reported sick, they are at once removed to the hospital in town.

36. Attempts to escape are of rare occurrence, and still more rarely successful. The discipline is by no means severe, and the system of promoting good-conduct men to be warders and overseers has produced the most satisfactory results; thus, all the gaol guards are convicts, and one European superintendent is found to suffice.

Police Force.

37. The police force consists of a total strength of 202 men, including a deputy commissioner, an European inspector, eight sergeant-majors, five corporals, 15 lance corporals, and 172 constables of various grades. There are six town stations, and 16 beyond the town limits, those upon the frontier, where the men are better paid, answering the purposes of preventing raids upon our territory, and of giving timely

notice of any unusual disturbances across the border. The men wear a neat uniform procured from England, and are now being properly drilled. All ranks pay a small contribution towards a police pension fund, but Malays are so restless, so impatient of discipline, and so much attached to their native village, that it is quite the exception when they can be induced to remain in the force for any length of time. They will not enlist, it is found, for long periods, only a few for more than three years; but as they all marry early, and it is proposed to build small barracks for married men at each of the more distant stations, I am hopeful that we may gradually increase the popularity of the service.

Charitable Institutions.

38. The Paupers Hospital is situated in the centre of the town, but apart from the shops and dwellings. It provides ample accommodation for all the wants of the place. About 25 cases are generally in the wards, the greater number being Chinese, who suffer chiefly from skin diseases of an aggravated character, induced it is supposed partly by poor and unwholesome diet, by opium smoking, and partly by an excessive addiction to fresh pork. This and the Leper Hospital, built on an island at some distance from the town, are in receipt of an allowance from Government, but depend also on public charity for support.

39. The number of lepers in residence on the island of Pulo Serimbon, all being free to go or stay, has been 18 during the year, and every attention was paid to their wants and even comforts. There are, however, several lepers on the mainland who prefer to lead a mendicant's life, one of them having to my knowledge a wife, and, I regret to say, a family in the town.

Government Houses and Buildings.

40. These buildings are all in satisfactory order. The Stadt House has been recently altered and partly re-furnished. There is a good garden attached, and with its fine grounds, open site, and commanding view, this old Dutch edifice is every way superior to any of the other residences at Malacca.

41. The powder magazine on the hill above it is at once an eyesore and an ever-present danger. I lost no time in reporting the matter, and steps are being taken not only for the removal of the large amount of military powder in store, but for the construction of a civil powder magazine (to be used by the traders) on a site in the road-stead remote from any dwelling.

42. A new jetty of a rough but useful design was constructed at my suggestion in the present year (1867). At low water the tide recedes so far that even small row boats cannot approach the land, but one may always land or embark at the jetty stairs, although mail* steamers and other large vessels must anchor at a distance of two miles from the shore.

General Observations.

43. It is computed that there are 91,000 acres of cultivated land within the Settlement, and 330,120 acres, mainly consisting of brushwood and forest, which are not in cultivation. Of the cultivated land 53,700 acres are believed to be laid down in Padi (it is said that the yield meets only one third of the consumption,) 33,950 acres in fruit patches or gardens (mainly cocoanut, mangosteen, durian, duku, rambutan, and mata-kuching), 10,000 in tapioca (but this last which is at present a very paying crop, is fast increasing), and the remainder in sugar cane, vegetables, and other tropical garden produce.

44. Figures are necessarily only approximative where a survey has yet to be made, and the survey staff at Malacca is by no means equal to the task before it, if the extent of the cultivated lands is to be correctly ascertained within any reasonable term of years.

45. As the future prosperity of this non-mercantile Settlement must almost entirely depend on its agricultural productiveness, it is greatly to be desired that the Survey Department should be temporarily enlarged, and its labours quickened and regulated by the presence of the Surveyor General, an officer of much experience, but whose services would assuredly be more valuable to the Colony were he more constantly detached from Singapore.

46. Under a recent enactment, all squatters or occupiers of Crown lands at Malacca are required to take leases for the same, with a view to uniformity of tenure, simplicity

* The British India Steam Navigation Company have a contract with the Colony for carrying the India mails monthly between the three Settlements and Calcutta.

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in the mode of collecting the revenue, and the prevention of encroachments or other abuses. They are given the option of purchasing their holdings in fee simple, either alternative presupposing the survey of all such lands, which is still very far from complete.

47. The squatters are the sub-tenants, or resident cultivators, of the lands which were surrendered to the East India Company by the Dutch proprietors in the years 1828 and 1829. Until 1838 these sub-tenants paid tenths in kind to the Government, but in that year money payments at a fixed rate, founded on an exceedingly moderate estimate of the value of the tenth, were introduced by means of commutation deeds having 20 years to run. In these papers the boundaries and acreage of the land were roughly described, but not upon the basis of a survey. The acceptance, however, of this arrangement was left optional with the people, to whom it might well have commended itself as calculated to save them from extortion and many preferred the old uncertain system of annual valuation and payment in kind, as continued from the Dutch, and probably adopted by these last from an Eastern usage of very ancient date. When the term of these deeds expired a few were renewed for short periods, but the mass of the cultivators reverted from choice to the system of an annual assessment of the Government share, and this share was taken in money or kind, as might best suit their convenience at the time.

48. In the year just closed commutation by means of a yearly money payment was declared to be compulsory at a fixed valuation, as follows:—Upon all lands situated within two miles of the town, 2*s.* 1½*d.* per acre per annum; within four miles, 1*s.* 10½*d.*, and beyond four miles, 1*s.* 0½*d.*, such lands to be taken on lease as before stated.

The terms upon which they might be purchased were also to be regulated by their distance from Malacca: If within two miles of the town radius, the price was to be 1*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* per acre; within four miles, 1*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and beyond that distance, 12*s.* 9*d.*

49. The number of leases taken in 1867 was 324, and of lands sold in fee simple, 15, representing in the former case an acreage of ac. 6,922, rs. 3, ps. 26, and in the latter of ac. 152, rs. 3, ps. 34.

50. On my arrival in the Settlement I found that the Nanning Division (our latest and poorest acquisition) was hopelessly in arrear with the payment of tithes on account of the old commutation deeds, that all trace of many of the defaulters had been lost; that many of the lots or holdings, as described in the deeds, were wholly indistinguishable, and that prosecutions were proceeding or impending against numbers of poor thriftless people for the recovery of a debt which most of them were ignorant of having incurred. The arrears being due by some deceased relation, or not improbably by some unknown individual whom they may have unwittingly succeeded in the cultivation of a field or garden that had lain waste and unclaimed for years.

51. This state of things I was enabled to bring to an end by offering easy terms in all cases, and in some, where a palpable injustice was being done, or where the absolute penury of the debtor was clearly established, by abandoning all further proceedings.

52. This concession to the people was balanced, in a financial sense, by a modification of the commutation order above referred to, which had directed that a fixed rate of assessment should henceforth be levied in the case of *all lands*, of whatever description, held or to be held upon lease within the Settlement. As the crops grown upon high lands, and in fruit gardens, which abound at Malacca, are greatly more valuable than, acre for acre, crops of grain, I obtained the Governor's consent to a revised regulation, whereby it was made discretionary on the part of the Lieut.-Governor, to assess such high lands or gardens, either at the rates named in the recent order, or according to the estimated value of the one-tenth of the produce; and by this means, which is accepted as a perfectly fair arrangement, and which in practice is found to work well, the value of the Government interest in such lands has in many instances been considerably raised.

Gambling and other Offences.

53. The Malays and Chinese are not litigious like the different coloured races inhabiting Ceylon, nor are crimes of violence prevalent amongst them, although, when assaults are committed, the results are too often serious from the frequency with which the kris is drawn or the parang used, and without one or other of these weapons but few of the inhabitants stir abroad. Cattle stealing is a crime of rare occurrence, while charges connected with petty larcenies by the lowest class of Chinese are common. On the other hand a passion for gambling pervades all classes. Of the Chinese it may be said to be the national pastime, and the only result of our efforts to make it criminal is *the thorough demoralization of the police*, who extort large amounts as hush money

from the players and then become their confederates and scouts. If, what is rare, an information for gambling be laid by some constable *in good faith*, the explanation of his zeal may be found in the insufficiency of the bribe.

54. *These are facts* within my daily experience, and I submit that the only way to deal with them would be to recognize and *control* the evil by imposing a tax upon what must be termed the hereditary propensity of a large and certainly the most important section of the community; to legalize, in short, under proper restriction, what we only aggravate in the attempt to prohibit.

Revision of Establishments.

55. I will conclude with the suggestion that a writer or cadet should be attached to the Lieut.-Governor's office to whom might be entrusted the direct supervision of the Harbour, Police, and Post Office Departments, and who might also be appointed Assistant Collector of Revenue with magisterial powers.

56. By this arrangement the Marine Office, the duties of which are at present very imperfectly performed by a clerk, would be placed on a footing of efficiency without additional expense, and a saving of at least 300*l.* a year would result from the abolition of the office of paid Deputy Commissioner of Police, an appointment which, with a good European Inspector such as we now possess and should always require, is wholly superfluous at Malacca. The monthly circuit of the country courts which are held in the police stations or an adjoining bungalow might also be made by the additional magistrate in the course of his visits to the rural police, while his attention would be given to revenue matters and land questions during his progress through the various districts. No better means could be proposed for his becoming rapidly and thoroughly acquainted with the Malay character and language, and his salary might be limited, as in Ceylon, to 200*l.* a year as writer, with an additional allowance of 100*l.* and his travelling expenses until he had passed the required examinations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. CAIRNS,
Lieut.-Governor.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., &c., &c.
Downing Street.

SIR,

Malacca, January 23, 1869.

IN forwarding the enclosed return, I have the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the Police Court and Court of Requests is open from 10 to 4, five days in the week, at Malacca; the sixth day courts are held in the country. Occasionally the work is light, at other times it is quite the reverse. I regret to say that during the last four months it has increased very considerably. I have already sent up for trial for murder three cases, and for robbery accompanied with violence three; some of these cases have occupied me for days, and in one case alone the depositions, exclusive of information, fill 30 pages of foolscap. There being only one clerk in the Police Court, the magistrate is compelled to take down all depositions. The large increase in fines for criminal offences for the year 1868, the period that I have been at Malacca, also shows the increase of crime, or that the police have been more vigilant and attentive to their duties than formerly.

With regard to the country courts, I may mention that it is of very great importance that the magistrate should be as much as possible in the country for the following reasons, viz., to hear complaints and give advice, settle trivial questions between parties, try cases, criminal and civil, in the district, and, in fact, to show the people that they are cared for. Were it not for these courts, which are now held a distance of from 15 to 32 miles from Malacca, (and to visit the far ones, and hold two courts in the day, I am generally obliged to proceed half way the evening before, after holding my court in Malacca, returning the following day but one in time for court,) the police would overlook many offences to save themselves the trouble of bringing offenders in a distance, and persons would forego their claims for the same reason.

In conclusion, I think it but due to myself to point out that it was my own suggestion increasing the visits in the country; that the Honourable Captain Playfair, Acting Lieut.-Governor, (late police magistrate, Malacca,) entirely concurred with me; that the necessity presented itself to me during the short period I was officiating Lieut.-Governor here, and when I had opportunities of visiting the whole of the country, and gaining considerable information; and that the self imposed extra work is very severe and trying to the constitution.

I have, &c.,
A. R. ORD,
Police Magistrate and Commissioner,
Court of Requests.

To the Honourable Captain F. L. Playfair,
Acting Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Station.	Magistrate's Name.	Number of Cases, Civil and Criminal, heard during the Year 1868 at Head Quarter Station.	Names and Distances from Place of Abode of every Station visited in the course of the Year, stating how often each is visited, and the Number of Cases, Civil and Criminal, heard at each Station, during 1868.						Magistrate's Salary.	Fees and Allowance of every kind received by the Magistrate, and if for travellings the Rate to be stated.
			Name of Station.	Times visited during the Year.	Distance from Home. Miles.	Total distance travelled to and from. Miles.	Number of Cases, Civil and Criminal, heard in 1868. Criminal.	Civil.		
Singapore -	*a* Charles Owen	481	Singapore -	—	—	—	—	481	$4,680 per annum.	None.
Singapore -	*b* F. H. Gottlieb	8,975 Criminal cases only.	Singapore -	—	—	—	8,975	—	One half of $3,818 28 per annum and one half of $3,272 76 per annum = $3,545 52 per annum.	No fees of any kind, and no travelling allowance received.
Singapore -	*c* C. B. Waller -	891 From the 19th October to the 21st December 1868.	Singapore -	—	—	—	635	256	$3,272 76 per annum	No fees of any kind, and no travelling allowance received.
Singapore -	*d* H. Burn -	161	Singapore -	—	—	—	161	—	Ex-officio magistrate receives no pay for performing this duty.	No fees received as magistrate, and no travelling allowance.
Penang - -	*e* C. B. Plunkett	5,703	Penang -	—	—	—	3 519	2,184	$3,272 76 - -	None.
Province Wellesley.	*f* D. T. Hatchell	2,132	Bukit Tamboon. *g*	53	15½	1,643	918		$3,272 76 - -	Travelling allowance at the rate of 25 cents per mile, with a personal allowance of $3 50 per day for every day, &c. Total received during 1868, $657 50.
			Panaga -	12	11	264	50			
Malacca -	*h* A. R. Ord -	Criminal 1,268 Civil - 621 1,889	*i* Kassang to *i* Battang.	14	18	504	6	10	$3,388 32 - -	No fees are received by magistrate. Travelling allowance at 25 cents per mile. Daily allowance $3 50 per day. Total received in 1868, $723 50.
			Malacca to *j* Nialas.	1	12	24	—	—		
				1	14	28	—	—		
			k Chinching	—	—	—	—	—		
			k Brissoo -	2	25	100	5	—		
			l Marlimo to *l* Soongye.	14	15	420	69	6		
			Rambye -	1	6	12	5	—		
			m Pakalam	13	21	546	26	9		
			Balla to *m* Qualla Linghy.	1	11	22	—	—		
			n Allor Gadja	14	15	420	14	16		
			n Poolow -	10	22	359	20	3		
			—	—	—	—	145	44		

a This magistrate is employed solely at Singapore. The cases referred in column three were heard between the 15th September and 31st December 1868. He only arrived in the Settlement in the month of August 1868, and commenced work on the 15th September 1868.

b This magistrate's duties are confined solely to Singapore.

c This magistrate's duties are confined entirely to Singapore.

d This magistrate is very rarely required to perform any duty except at Singapore.

e This magistrate's duties are confined to George Town in the Island of Penang, and he is not required to travel on other parts of the Island.

f This officer is the only magistrate in Province Wellesley, and has to travel between two stations 65 miles apart.

g The small number of cases heard at this station is, in my opinion, owing to the length of time between each visit. If it were visited once a week it would be a great boon to the people living on the north, who have now to come to Butterworth. It also would prevent the police from being so long away from their stations, several of them being upwards of 15 miles to the north of Butterworth.

h This officer is the only magistrate in Malacca, and besides holding court in the town, has to visit ten stations distributed over an area of country 50 miles in length and 30 in breadth. Some of these, as Battang, Malacca, Nialas, Soongye, Rambye, and Qualla Linghy, are new stations, ordered by the Government to be visited experimentally for a limited period. If it is found that they furnish a sufficient amount of work to justify the trouble and expense incurred, they will be permanently adopted as stations.

i Kassang and Battang Malacca are visited the same day.

j Kassang and Nialas but on alternate months.

k Chin Ching will be visited alternate months with Brissoo when the police station is finished.

l Soongye Rambye is visited once a quarter, on the same day as Marlemow.

m Qualla Lingey is visited once a month, on the same day as Pankalan Balla.

n Allor Gadjah and Poolow are visited on the same day, monthly, but *were* visited on different days.

Total number of criminal cases heard in 1868 - - - -	1,413
Total number of civil cases heard in 1868 - - - -	665
Fees, fines in criminal cases for 1868 -	$4,607 15
Fees, fines in civil cases for 1868 - - - -	$1,954 05

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

REPORTS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1868.

PART I.—WEST INDIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1870.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
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PART I.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 264.)

MY LORD, King's House, November 8, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868, together with my Report on it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1868.

The year now under Report, 1868, is the second year after the establishment (in the latter part of 1866) of the new Constitution in this Colony.

Legislation.

Forty-two laws were passed during this year. Of these the following are the most important:—

Law 2 of 1868. For increasing the import duties temporarily, by one-tenth part.

This additional duty was necessary towards making good the habitual deficit, which had been shown by the result of the accounts of the year 1866–7 still to exist; and which in that year had amounted to upwards of 36,000*l.*; notwithstanding the considerable net reduction of expenditure and increase of taxation effected in that year. This law had a duration originally to the 31st December, 1868; and it has since been continued in force to the 31st March, 1870. The amount of additional duty collected under it, from the date of its passing, 8th February, 1868, to the end of the financial year, was 11,390*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* It will be shown below that this law, with the help of increased productiveness in other taxes, was sufficient to effect its purpose. And the great revival of trade which has taken place since its enactment, shows that it has had no injurious effect upon consumption.

Law 5 of 1868 places all charges on account of the poor under the control of the Municipal Boards of the several parishes; and converts the house tax, both old and new, into a poor rate. This law also equalizes the rate of house tax more nearly than before, by bringing down the poundage rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on houses of the value of 12*l.* a year and upwards, to houses of the value of 8*l.* a year and upwards. This law also provides for the increase and decrease of this poor rate annually in each parish, according to its necessities.

The new Revenue Service to be described below, made it possible to extend the system of a poundage rate to houses of lower value than it would have been possible to include in that system under the old method of collection.

Law 12 of 1868. The Clergy Act being about to expire with the year 1869, it had been considered desirable to allow the clerical establishment (which upon any view seemed to be upon too expensive a scale, and to require systematic reform) to become gradually reduced, by abstaining from filling up vacancies as they occurred in the natural order of things. This course had been adopted soon after my assumption of the government of the Colony, as one that would facilitate whatever system might be determined upon eventually, when the time for revising the old system and establishment should arrive; and it was rendered imperative in the meanwhile by this law. At the same time this law empowered the Governor to make such temporary provision as might be necessary, for the duties of any rectory or curacy thus falling vacant, out of any lapsed stipend thereby becoming available.

Law 15 of 1868 adopts the principle of the English statute, whereby certain acts partaking of a treasonable character are made punishable simply as felonies.

Law 18 of 1868 is a re-enactment, with additions and amendments, of the Post Office

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Law. It embodies several clauses of the English Post Office Act, which were before in force merely by being referred to in the Colonial Statute by name; so that to know the Jamaica Post Office Law, it was necessary to possess the British Statute.

Law 19 of 1868 amends the Main Road Laws, which had become inapplicable in consequence of the abolition of the Board of Main Road Commissioners, and the transfer of the charge of the main roads to the Director of Roads. By this law the damages on account of lands taken for any main road, in case of dispute, will now be fixed by the Judge of the District Court, instead of by a common jury. This change seemed to be satisfactory to the public.

Law 20 of 1868. The office of Receiver-General is abolished by this law, which transfers the duties to an officer styled the Treasurer. The salary of the Receiver-General was 1,200*l.* a year; and the retirement of the gentleman who held the office (since appointed to office elsewhere) afforded an opportunity of reconstructing the Treasury Department, in a satisfactory manner, at such a large saving of expense as made it feasible, out of part of the saving, to provide for the thorough reorganization of the Audit Department; a measure which was very urgently needed.

The cost of the Treasurer's Department was reduced from 2,230*l.* to 1,190*l.*; and the salary of the Auditor-General was increased from 750*l.* to 1,000*l.*, for which sum the services of a gentleman from the English Audit Office, eminently qualified for the business, were procured. By the whole arrangement a considerable saving was effected.

Law 23 of 1868 enabled the Government to raise a loan of 8,000*l.*, for the purpose of purchasing and fitting up extensive premises in Kingston, called Villamils Wharf; in order to transfer thither the Custom House, and to establish thereat, exclusively, bonded rum warehouses (export) and bonded warehouses for spirits, wines, and tobacco (import), all which articles require more supervision than can easily be given in private bonded warehouses, scattered about the town.

These premises consist of a large and commodious building, with extensive storehouses and wharves, adjacent to the Harbour of Kingston, capable of holding the offices of several of the Revenue Departments in Kingston, besides the Custom House, and of furnishing excellent storage for goods of the above-mentioned descriptions. The Kingston Custom House, which was formerly a disgrace to the Colony, is now a convenient and creditable building. By this purchase a saving is effected in the difference between the amount paid for the interest and gradual redemption of the loan, and the saving in rent of offices, added to the warehouse rent received; which together promise to give a handsome return for the outlay. From the first, a gain of 130*l.* a year is expected to be realized; which will be increased by 640*l.* addition when the loan is redeemed.

Law 25 of 1868. To authorize the Governor to relieve the Titchfield School Trust from its present liabilities, &c., &c. In the year 1785 the Colonial Legislature vested in trustees the property of this endowment, dedicated to the support of a school at Port Antonio, in the parish of Portland. The trustees were originally the Commander-in-Chief, the four senior privy councillors, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the members for the parish, the Chief Justice, the custos, and four senior magistrates, the churchwardens and vestrymen of the parish, the Rector of the town of Titchfield, and six elected trustees.

Instead of these, by an Act passed in 1856, the President of the Council, the members of the Executive Committee, the Speaker of the Assembly, the custos and members of Assembly for the parish, the Rector and four senior magistrates of the parish, and the churchwardens were appointed trustees.

The income of the trust amounted to about 400*l.* a year, derived chiefly from land and houses close to the town; and the school, up to the year 1852, was a flourishing and useful institution. But in that year the trustees, or such of them as acted, quarrelled with their schoolmaster, and consequently refused to pay him the arrears of his salary lawfully due. The schoolmaster was obliged to prosecute for his dues, and obtained a judgment for 161*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* debt, with 100*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* costs. But instead of paying the debt from the ample trust funds at their disposal, the trustees drove the trust into Chancery. The usual course was then proceeded with. Instead of selling a few houses, by which the debt might have been paid off in a month or two, the estate was placed under receivership. The income as it accrued was absorbed, and the property meanwhile was allowed to go to waste. The school was necessarily abandoned very early in the operation. The schoolmaster and his representatives have never received a farthing of their dues.

When this law was passed it was expected that the property, if relieved from the incubus of Chancery, and managed in a proper manner, might still yield some surplus available for education, after paying off the claims upon it. This law was passed, there-

fore, to empower the Government to come into the place of the trustees, on arranging with the parties and getting the trust out of Chancery. Unhappily, subsequent careful inquiry has shown that the value of the property has been so much deteriorated, in consequence of the houses in which it chiefly consisted having been allowed, whilst in the hands of the Court, some to tumble down, others to fall into decay, that its whole value is considered insufficient to pay off the debt that has now accumulated upon it. The remedy intended by this law has come, therefore, too late. The spoliation of the endowment is completed.

This case, from all I can learn, may be regarded as a fair sample of the results of the Chancery system here, as it has existed uninterruptedly from early times.

Law 26 of 1868. "A law for laying a duty upon persons possessing certain descrip-" tions of land." This law takes the place of the expired Law 10 of 1867, whereby a registration tax of 1*d.* an acre on land was imposed for that one year. In 1867 the existing machinery of the Revenue Department afforded no means of collecting any tax on landed property, based on the varying value of different descriptions of land. The establishment of an efficient revenue service has rendered a tax so based now a feasible measure. This law imposes rates of tax ranging from three pence per acre per annum, on the most valuable description of lands, to one farthing per acre on land in wood, and what is here called "ruinate." The revenue derivable from this tax at present rates is not large; but the tax has afforded a means of obtaining statistical information of great value, as the Returns give (though doubtless as yet incompletely) the actual acreage under every sort of produce in every parish in the island. The result, I believe, will surprise those who have been in the habit of regarding Jamaica as a mere sugar island.

Law 28 of 1868. "A law to consolidate the offices of Registrar in Chancery and Clerk " of the Patents, and of the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Crown."

This law amalgamated the two offices above-mentioned, one of which had come to approximate to the condition of a sinecure. By this measure, without in the least degree impairing the efficiency of either of these offices, a saving of 1,076*l.* per annum was effected. The single officer of the two Courts is paid by salary, the fees (paid in the form of stamps) going into the Treasury. One of the two office holders was at first pensioned; but he has since been so provided for, that I hope he will be rather a gainer by the arrangement, whilst his pension is saved.

Law 29 of 1868. A law for authorizing the use for general purposes of the Marine Hospitals of Montego Bay and Falmouth.

These hospitals were found to be much too extensive for the sick sailors of the mercantile marine, for which class exclusively they were established; and they have been by this law thrown open also to the inhabitants generally of the two important parishes in which they are situated.

Law 31 of 1868 is a law passed to enable the International Ocean Telegraph Company to work telegraphs in and through this island. It is to be hoped that this law will not be allowed to remain long a dead letter.

Law 32 of 1868, to amend the vaccination law. This is an adaptation of the law on this subject now in force in England.

Law 34 of 1868. "A law for giving jurisdiction to the District Courts in matters of " insolvency." This law constitutes the District Courts the insolvent courts of their districts, subject to appeal to the Supreme Court. Formerly the courts of circuit, by a strange anomaly, were the insolvent courts. The clerks of the district courts become *ex officio* the official assignees.

There were formerly three official assignees in the Colony, one for each county, each drawing a salary of 400*l.* a year, besides fees. The holders were responsible only to the Supreme Court. The law required all the moneys of all insolvent estates to be lodged in the public treasury by the official assignees immediately upon receipt; but no means were provided whereby any one, whether an official or a private person, could know whether such lodgments were really made or not. It was no person's duty to see to such lodgment, and in practice this was a matter that was never inquired into. Of the three gentlemen who were holders of these offices on my arrival, one lately died insolvent, owing money to the bankrupt and insolvent estates in his hands, which could not have been lost to the creditors had the law not been disregarded. Another, whose sworn account, as filed in the Supreme Court Clerk's office, showed that he ought to have had about 2,000*l.* lodged in the Treasury to the credit of the estates in his hands, was lately, by some accident, discovered not to have a farthing lodged there. He was brought before the judges in open court, charged with this manifest breach of the law; but, being allowed till next term to excuse himself, as he had appropriated the money, he absconded in the meanwhile.

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The law now passed provides that abstracts of the sworn accounts shall be sent by the Clerk of the Supreme Court (to whom, as heretofore, they will all be presented, and by whom they will be filed to the Treasury, where the accounts will be compared with the cash actually in deposit. Thus it is believed that such frauds as those which heretofore have been allowed to be committed habitually with impunity will be prevented. A saving in the three salaries amounting to 1,200*l.* a-year is effected, from which, for the present, a pension in compensation to the holder of one of the three offices must be deducted.

Law 35 of 1868. For giving a limited jurisdiction to the District Courts in the probate of wills and grants of letters of administration. Probate of wills was strictly confined to the Court of Ordinary in Spanish Town, before the Governor; though, in cases of intestacy, where the personalty did not exceed 50*l.* in value, a summary mode of local procedure was provided. The present law confers upon the District Courts a similar jurisdiction to that given to the County Courts in England by the 20 & 21 Vict. c. 77.

Law 36 of 1868 abolished the Cornwall County Gaol at Montego Bay, and provided that any prison in the county might be declared to be as a county gaol for any part of Cornwall. There were not usually more than a daily average of ten prisoners in the Cornwall County Gaol, the officers and servants of which, in salaries alone, cost the Colony 439*l.* 12*s.* a year; whilst there was an equally good prison available at Falmouth, only 22 miles off. Every debtor and other prisoner in the Montego Bay Gaol was calculated to cost the Colony at the rate of 56*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* a year. By this measure a considerable annual saving was effected. The building, which is good, has been made use of as a small prison for short-term convicts at Montego Bay.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year 1866–67, the first under the new constitution, showed results which were far from satisfactory. The gross expenditure indeed, by the exercise of strict economy, had been lessened by 10,172*l.*, notwithstanding an increase of 12,151*l.* in the payments made on account of the interest and sinking funds of the increased island debts, and notwithstanding the cost of laying down the foundations of the new establishments in the departments of Justice and Police. But the revenue had not responded to the additional taxation which had been imposed; so that the customary deficit still appeared. A steady consideration, however, of the causes to which this untoward result was attributable showed that these causes were in great part accidental and temporary, and left reasonable ground of hope for the future. When the time for reporting on the calendar year 1867 arrived, I was able to state in anticipation that, at the close of the second financial year under the new constitution (ending 30th September, 1868), income and expenditure had been brought, after an indefinitely long series of constant and large deficits, at last to an equilibrium, although the precise figures could not then be given.

The following are the figures which give the actual results of the financial year 1867–68, from which it will be seen that my anticipation has been realized.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Revenue - - -	344,102	3	5½
General Expenditure - - -	343,678	6	10¾
Surplus - - -	£423	16	6¾

These figures include (besides payments to Sinking Funds) payments in redemption of principal debt, amounting to 6,900*l.*

The Immigration Fund account is not included in the above figures. It should always be viewed distinctly from the account of General Revenue and Expenditure. The Immigration Fund has its own revenue, debt, and expenditure; and, from the principle on which it is founded, neither its revenue nor its expenditure affects the financial position. The following figures are shown in the Blue Book under this head:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Immigration Revenue - - -	23,999	14	5
Immigration Expenditure - - -	15,117	12	10
Excess of Immigration Revenue -	£8,882	1	7

In my last year's Report, I stated that an equilibrium had been arrived at "by a con-

"tinuation of the system of reducing all avoidable expenditure, by a slight increase of "indirect taxation, by the increased productiveness of the rum duty, and in some degree "by the partial recovery of trade from its most extreme state of prostration," a state which was fully explained in that Report.

The increase of indirect taxation alluded to was the addition of one-tenth to the import duties under Law 2 of 1868, as described under the last preceding head of this Report.

The rum Excise duty in 1866–67 produced only the small revenue of 32,361*l.*, for reasons fully explained last year. In the year 1867–68, now under report, at the same rate, it produced 62,134*l.*

A trifling tax on dogs in towns was imposed, not for the object of revenue, but to keep down a nuisance.

On the other hand, in succession to the Land Registration duty of 1*d.* an acre (which as a permanent tax would have been indefensible), the Rateable Property tax which succeeded it, as above explained, is calculated to yield, when in full operation, about 1,000*l.* less than the 1*d.* an acre tax did.

The general revenue of 1867–68 was by 48,617*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.* more than that of 1866–67. It was by 40,740*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.* more than that of 1865–66; excluding from all years the export duties and other receipts of the Immigration Funds. Of this excess 11,594*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* were received on account of new taxes imposed within the year under report; and the remainder was due to the increased yield of taxes as previously existing.

The export duties are all carried to the credit of the Immigration Fund.

The following table shows in some detail the whole of the Treasury receipts of the year 1867–68, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding.

	1867–68.	1866–67.	More.	Less.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duty—(old)	148,532 10 7	147,403 10 9	12,519 11 0	—
„ (additional)	11,390 11 2	—		
Tonnage Dues	12,666 16 6	11,673 9 7	993 6 11	—
Excise—Rum Duty	62,134 3 1	32,361 17 4	29,772 5 9	—
Spirit Licences	10,722 4 7	8,725 11 0	1,996 13 7	—
Trade Licences—Old	313 3 6	79 19 7	233 3 11	—
New	6,878 16 8	6,121 9 2	757 7 6	—
Stamps	9,584 0 4½	9,851 8 10	—	267 8 5½
Land Tax—Old—Roads	9,006 1 9½	7,136 10 5	1,869 11 4½	—
„ New—Property Tax	3,880 9 1¾	6,502 18 2	—	2,622 9 0¼
House Tax—Poor Rate	14,410 19 2	17,477 10 4	—	3,066 11 2
Horse and Wheel Tax—Roads	21,892 10 10½	17,191 5 9	4,701 5 1½	—
Tax on Stock, &c.	6,237 0 9½	6,556 16 8	—	319 15 10½
Dog Tax	203 16 0	—	203 16 0	—
Post Office	11,527 10 7	10,504 13 3	1,022 17 4	—
Miscellaneous	14,721 8 7¾	13,897 6 11	824 1 8¾	—
	344,102 3 5½	295,484 7 9	48,617 15 8½	—
Applicable to Emigration Funds—				
Export Duty	22,131 9 8	22,066 17 0	364 12 8	—
Capitation Fees	1,568 4 9	3,337 15 4	—	1,769 10 7
Total Revenue	368,101 17 10½	320,889 0 1	47,212 17 9½	—
Loan Moneys—Money received on Loan other than temporary advances from the Bank, which were repaid within the year	8,150 0 0	58,725 0 0	—	50,575 0 0
Excess of Deposits in Treasury over withdrawals	23,117 4 2	13,830 3 9	9,287 0 5	—
Grand Total	399,369 2 0½	393,444 3 10	5,924 18 2½	—

The expenditure (excluding for both years charges on account of the Immigration Fund, as also payments to sinking funds for the eventual redemption of the debt, and payments in actual redemption of debt) was 322,008*l.* in 1867–68, whilst that of 1866–67, as shown in the books, was 317,975*l.*; giving an apparent increase in the last year of 4,033*l.* But this apparent increase of current expenditure is merely nominal, the consequence of certain charges in the form of salaries and commissions, amounting to 6,329*l.*, being duly shown in the accounts of this year, which before never appeared in the accounts at all; it having been the practice to deduct them from the revenue before it was paid into the

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chest. This apparent increase represents a real further decrease of current expenditure, amounting to 2,296*l.* I think this result will be felt to be satisfactory, when it is considered that the two important establishments introduced after the change of Government, namely, the District Courts and the Constabulary, were nearly complete at the close of 1867–68; but were only in their infancy at the close of 1866–67.

As more debt was actually paid off in 1867–68 than in 1866–67 by 5,800*l.* (such payments being made out of revenue, and charged as expenditure), the conversion of a large deficit in 1866–67 into a surplus, however small, in 1867–68, is a matter upon which the Colony may fairly be congratulated.

In the year 1866–67 the principle was adopted of constituting, on a perfectly effective scale, those establishments, costly though they must necessarily be, which were indispensable to the great objects of a civilized government, justice, order, and security. The prostration of the finances at the time, truly alarming as it was, on a full consideration of the condition of the Colony, was thought no sufficient reason for delaying these vital reforms. On the contrary, it was thought a reason for completing the reforms as rapidly as might be consistent with efficiency; for it was believed that on the attainment of the great objects above mentioned, must rest all reasonable hope of material and moral improvement. But it was thought a sufficient reason for pressing forward all savings consistent with true economy, in the reduction of extravagant and the abolition of useless sources of expenditure; and even for avoiding, for the present, expenditure consistent with true economy, upon objects of importance, but not of vital and immediate necessity.

Whether this principle has been carried into execution well or ill, must be matter of opinion. But the financial result is matter of fact. The following table is a comparison of the gross expenditure as it was in 1865–66, which was the last year under the old establishments and constitution, with what it was in 1867–68, the year now under report, which was the second year under the new establishments and constitution. Taken in connection with the memorandum at its foot, this table shows that the financial result of the measures in question has been in the latter year a net saving of 16,686*l.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE YEAR 1865–66, AND IN THE YEAR 1867–68.

	1865-66.	1867-68.	More.	Less.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	£	
Civil	20,357	21,245	888	—	
Judicial	20,327	17,728	—	2,599	
„ (new) District Courts	—	6,125	6,125	—	
Revenue	21,614	27,601	5,987	—	Nominal.
Botanic Garden	726	1,222	496	—	
Post Office	9,816	11,045	1,229	—	Nominal.
Ecclesiastical	30,042	26,514	—	3,528	
Hospital	17,327	14,030	—	3,297	
Old Police	25,235	7,135	—	18,100	
New Constabulary	—	33,120	33,120	—	
Prisons	33,310	24,814	—	8,496	
Education	3,445	4,120	675	—	
Miscellaneous	6,482	2,634	—	3,848	
Steam Communication	4,900	—	—	4,900	
Military	2,659	1,494	—	1,165	
Roads	27,726	28,936	1,210	—	
Buildings	6,945	4,001	—	2,944	
Pensions	3,578	8,429	4,851	—	
Lighthouses	2,081	1,301	—	780	
Parochial Offices	5,130	1,904	—	3,226	Nominal.
„ „ Ecclesiastical	7,814	396	—	7,418	
„ „ General	37,914	28,421	—	9,493	Partly nominal.
Interest on Debt	45,869	49,793	3,924	—	
Total current Expenditure	333,297	322,008	58,505	69,794	
Payments on Debt Account to Sinking Fund	10,000	14,770	4,770	—	
In Redemption of Principal	1,700	6,900	5,200	—	
Total Disbursements, exclusive of Charges on Emigration Fund Account	344,997	343,678	68,475	69,794	
Charges on Emigration Fund Account	11,581	15,118	3,537	—	
Total Disbursements	356,578	358,796	72,012	69,794	

MEMO:—		£
Decrease of current expenditure in 1867–68, as compared with current expenditure in 1865–66 as above shown -		69,794
Increase of the same - - - - - - - - -		58,505
Net reduction as above shown - - - - - -		11,289
Add—For expenditure actually made in 1865–66, but not shown in the public accounts—		
Commission received by the collectors of Dues (approximate)	£4,000	
Salaries of Deputy Postmasters - - - - - -	1,397	
Totals to be added - -	£5,397	5,397
Total true reduction of current expenditure (approximate)		£16,686

The entries described as nominal are the consequence of alterations in the system of entering charges in account, and the items of increase and decrease so described, if fully shown, would exactly balance one another.

In neither year are charges on account of the suppression of the disturbances of 1865 entered. Such charges have been defrayed from the proceeds of a loan for 50,000*l.*, voted by the late House of Assembly, and raised for that purpose.

Since the financial accounts for the year under report (1867–68) were closed, another financial year has just expired. It is too early to be able to give any figures for this last-mentioned year, 1868–69, being the third year under the new constitution; but it is already certain that the accounts, when closed, will show that the modest surplus of 423*l.* at the close of the second year of the new state of things has expanded into a surplus which I am informed may be estimated at 50,000*l.*, or thereabouts, at the close of the third year. There has been no addition worthy of mention to the taxes in this last year. The result is due to the increased productiveness and better collection of the taxes before existing.

The obstacle, insurmountable while it lasts, which, threatening public insolvency, places in the way of every sort of progress, may now be reasonably regarded as no more. It is calculated that the lately authorized arrangement by which the Sinking Funds of the Guaranteed Loans of 600,000*l.* are placed upon a rational footing, when carried into effect (as it is expected to be immediately), will relieve the Colony of a payment of about 15,000*l.* a year, much of which has been heretofore absolutely wasted.

On the whole, I am confident that the present financial position of the Colony will enable the Legislative Council next year to remove the most objectionable of the existing imposts, which are all to be found amongst taxes of old standing; to call in for redemption all that large portion of the unguaranteed debt which is liable to such call, paying some portion of it off, and reducing the rate of interest upon the remainder; and to make a somewhat more liberal expenditure than has been possible heretofore upon works urgently needed, such, for example, as additions to the Lunatic Asylum, improvements in the Public Hospital, and bridged mule-roads across the central parts of the island; and it will enable the Treasury to pay debts long since due to public works of importance, for which loans were contracted by the late Legislature, the proceeds of which were necessarily applied to current expenditure, when the cash balance in the chest was falling down to nothing.

Thus it may now fearlessly be announced that the finances of this Colony have sprung up from a state of imminent insolvency, in which unquestionably they were three years ago, to a state of unexampled prosperity.

Pensions.

Special compensation, in the form of pensions, to the amount of 1,954*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, and in the form of donations to the amount of 515*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, was granted in the course of the financial year 1867–68, to officers who lost their offices in consequence of the reforms introduced into their departments. One of the chief officers so pensioned has been since re-employed, and his pension is suspended.

Under the general superannuation system now introduced, pensions were granted in regular course, amounting to 250*l.* per annum.

Public Debt.

The only loan raised in the year 1867–68, was, by Law 23 of 1868, above described, under which 8,000*l.* were borrowed for the purchase and adaptation of certain very sub-

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stantial buildings in Kingston for a Custom House. Besides this 8,000*l.*, the only sum that was raised under regular loan within the year was 150*l.*, by which the loan authorized by Law 2 of 1867 to replace the Immigration Fund moneys, was filled up. But in the course of the year it became necessary to obtain an advance of 20,000*l.* from the Colonial Bank, as a temporary accommodation, in order to save the Colony from the discredit which it would have undergone if the Treasury had stopped payment. This sum of 20,000*l.*, however, together with the sum of 10,000*l.* similarly obtained the year before, was repaid within the year 1867–68; and there has since been no necessity for obtaining like advances. During the year 1867–68, besides redeeming 6,900*l.* of the principal money of old loans, investments were made in Sinking Funds for eventual redemption of debt to the amount of 14,770*l.* on account of loans for general objects, and of 4,962*l.* 6*s.* on account of the Immigration Loans. The Public Debt stood as follows on the 30th of September of each of the last three years, after making allowance for the Sinking Funds invested for the redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1866 - - -	757,316	17	8
1867 - - -	788,090	19	1
1868 - - -	771,140	12	3

But to these sums must be added 15,728*l.* 4*s.* due by the Treasury to certain local works, for which loans were specially raised, under statute, by the late Government. The Treasury being now in a condition to meet its obligations, the current year will see the commencement of these long overdue works.

The interest paid this year on all loans amounted to 54,534*l.*, and the money invested this year in all Sinking Funds amounted to 19,732*l.*

Public Works.

With the exception of a small poor-house in the parish of Hanover, and a model school-house at Bath, in St. Thomas, the expenditure chargeable to revenue under this head was necessarily confined within the year 1867–68 to what was required for keeping in repair and for making some necessary alterations in existing public buildings. The alterations in the new Custom House are a charge against the loan raised for the purpose. The expenditure on the roads was:—

	£
On main roads - - -	15,745
On parochial roads - - -	13,190

New Revenue Service.

No inconsiderable part of the increased yield of the taxes is attributable to their having been much better collected and accounted for than they were under the old system.

A great improvement has taken place in the Custom House; and the establishment and system for the collection of the excise and other internal revenue have been completely re-formed.

Formerly the internal revenue was collected by officers called Collectors of Dues, who were paid mainly by commissions, which did not appear in the public accounts. These officers were not expected to devote their whole time to their office, and certainly they did no more than was expected of them. They were really under no departmental or other supervision whatsoever; and they claimed to hold office for life.

In the course of the year under report these offices were abolished; and a revenue service was constituted, to which the collection of customs at the minor outports and the collection of all internal revenues is entrusted; including land and property tax, horse and wheel tax, licences, poor rate, stamps, immigration dues, and the excise on rum. These officers are required to visit every district in every parish. There is in every parish a collector of taxes, at least one assistant collector, and at least one clerk; all are subordinate to a Collector-General in Kingston. There are fourteen collectors, all having the same powers, but divided into three classes, who as vacancies occur rise from class to class, according to merit. They receive no commission. The salaries of the three classes are respectively 500*l.*, 400*l.*, and 300*l.* a year. There are twenty-one assistant collectors, also divided into three classes, in which they rise on the same principle, of which the salaries are 250*l.*, 200*l.*, and 150*l.* a year. There are twenty-five clerks in two classes, at 100*l.* and 80*l.* a year. There are two or more revenue runners in each parish. As expense must be incurred in travelling about a parish, which involves the necessity of keeping a horse, it will be proposed in the forthcoming

estimates to give every collector and assistant collector in every parish except Kingston a horse allowance of 50*l.* a year. And it will be proposed to give the clerks in each class an annual increment of 5*l.* within a certain limit.

Besides the Collector-General, who is at the head of every revenue department, external and internal, an active and trained officer has been obtained from home, whose business it is to travel through the parishes, reporting on everything, but especially reviewing the administration of the excise, and instructing the collectors in that difficult branch of their business. When not travelling, he assists the Collector-General in Kingston.

The appointment of a Collector-General has made it practicable to abolish the two offices of Collector and of Controller of Customs, the holders of which have retired on their pensions, and to consolidate them into the single office of Collector of Customs in Kingston.

The main object of the new service was to substitute an efficient for a very inefficient system of collecting the revenue. But its creation has been on the whole the means of a saving of expenditure, which is estimated for the year 1868–69 at no less than about 5,000*l.* The horse allowance, &c., above mentioned, and perhaps a slight increase of strength, will reduce this amount. But the new service will always be a direct economy of no inconsiderable amount; whilst its indirect effects upon the chest will be an economy of very great importance, though the amount will be undefinable.

A parochial treasure chest has been established in every parish, of which the collector has charge as local treasurer. Formerly there were no means of making local payments, however small the amount, except by bills on Kingston. Persons receiving small salaries, and all others who had to receive small sums of public money, such as parochial road contractors for example, were seriously endamaged under this system, for they could not get their bills cashed on the spot, without submitting to a heavy charge by way of discount. The smaller the bill, and the poorer the holder, the more discount he had to pay to get his own money. And this occurred while the Collector of Dues in the parish might be put to some risk and difficulty in remitting his collections to Kingston. All local payments, so far as local receipts may make it possible to do so, will now be paid at the parochial treasuries, under orders, general or special, from the offices of account at head-quarters. The public convenience is greatly promoted by this part of the new system.

On the whole, the Government has reason to be satisfied with the new service. It will doubtless improve under discipline, and already it does credit to Mr. French, the Collector-General, as head of the department.

New Medical Service.

On the 1st December a Medical Department was organized, and to commence with fifteen medical practitioners were on that day appointed "Government Medical Officers," at salaries ranging mostly from 200*l.* to 300*l.* per annum; partly chargeable to the poor rates and partly to the general revenues.

Under the old system all parishes had medical men in them, holding public appointments. But there was a complete absence of system, and even of fairness, in the distribution of the appointments, and in the remuneration assigned; so that although, in the aggregate, a considerable sum was expended from the general revenues in the salaries of parochial medical men, it was so injudiciously employed, that the country generally derived little, and very extensive tracts derived no benefit from the expenditure, to which nevertheless all the taxpayers everywhere contributed.

In one parish, for example, the amount paid out of the general revenues for medical services was four times as much as in another parish of about equal size; and the difference could not be accounted for in any reasonable manner.

In the greater part of the Island there was an absolute want of medical aid; for as beyond the town of Kingston few medical men can find sufficient inducement to practise in Jamaica unless partly supported by a salary; and as the parochial medical appointments were given to a few medical men residing in the parish towns, the consequence was that in the remoter rural districts there were no medical practitioners to be found.

Thus over a large part of the Island, except in the case of a person of means, such an accident as a broken leg was fatal, which near a town would have been cured in a few weeks.

Under the new system, the cost of which was contrived so as to differ very little, if at all, from the aggregate cost of the old unfair and unmethodical plan, if plan at all can

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be said to have existed, the island, except the city of Kingston, is divided into forty medical districts, having reference to area and population; to each of which a Government Medical Officer has been, or will be, appointed.

The Colony is under great obligations to the several Custodes and Muncipal Boards of parishes, for the aid they have given in the definition and selection of these medical districts. The "Government Medical Officers" have medical charge of sick paupers, parochial hospitals and alms-houses, prisons and lockups. They attend sick men of the constabulary; the duty of vaccination is entrusted to them; and they are expected to advise the Government and the parochial authorities on questions affecting the public health. Every "Government Medical Officer" resides in or close to his district; and his public duties do not interfere with private practice. It is in contemplation to make further improvements in this department, by the establishment of, perhaps, a couple of Dispensaries in each medical district, where medicines will be dispensed, and sold at fixed charges, and where the Government Medical Officer (who will have the control and superintendence of these institutions under regulations to be laid down) will attend on fixed days, to give advice, at a moderate and fixed rate of fees, to patients who present themselves, and who, although not paupers, will usually be too poor to afford the general scale of fees charged for medical visits in this Colony.

This new medical service does not embrace the General Penitentiary, the Public Hospital at Kingston, the Lunatic Asylum, or the Reformatories, none of which are parochial establishments.

In addition to their salaries the Government Medical Officers will attend coolie immigrant labourers in their respective medical districts, an annual allowance for the medical care of such immigrants being made to them, separately, chargeable to the Immigration Department.

Of the forty medical districts arranged for, thirty-five are at this moment filled by as many Government Medical Officers; and five are still vacant, no eligible medical men being as yet available for them.

Before this service was constituted, every year saw a reduction in the number of medical men in the Colony. The consequence was lamentable. I cannot doubt that this general addition to the number of medical men, and this general distribution of medical skill over the whole island, will be a blessing equally to rich and poor. At any rate it will have cost little or nothing more than the time occupied in organization and arrangement.

District Courts.

Five of the new District Courts were in operation at the close of the year 1868; but of these three only had been in operation during the whole year. Since their establishment, all five have done a considerable amount of civil business, of a legitimate character, none of which, or a very minute portion of it only, would have been brought to trial at all, but for the existence of these Courts. 2,091 common law cases, 10 equity cases, 86 land cases, and 348 criminal trials were decided by these five Courts, from the time of their opening up to the 31st of December. The amount claimed by the suitors was 16,393*l.*; whereof 613*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.* were paid into Court, and 8,997*l.* 2*s.* 5¼*d.* were decreed to plaintiffs, to which should probably be added upwards of 50 per cent. more for money paid by defendants out of court in actions withdrawn. The Court fees amounted to 1237*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; and the costs adjudged to successful parties amounted to 1,163*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*

As was to have been expected, the largest amount claimed was in the Kingston Court, where it was 7,118*l.* 0*s.* 9½*d.*; but the Court of the Falmouth District in eleven months had 688 civil causes, being more by nearly 50 per cent. than the Kingston Court had in nearly fourteen months. The jurisdiction of the Falmouth Court comprises only one parish and a half, and the above figures will be an indication of the number of persons who must have been deprived of their rights before these Courts were established.

At the present moment all the eight District Courts in the Island are in full operation.

Constabulary.

Before the close of this year, all the parishes that remained unsupplied at the close of the year 1867, except two, were supplied with the new Constabulary, and these two were supplied early in 1869.

The strength of the force on the 31st of December was as follows:—

16 Officers.
94 Sub-officers.
516 Constables.

Total, 626

This force has done good service. It has been useful to the revenue department, as well as in its own special province. It was always anticipated that from being under command only of its own officers and the General Government, with an organization independent of local influences, so fatal to universal usefulness, it would be at first an unpopular institution with many; and this has been the case, but not to any greater extent than was expected. It is not unpopular with the class of shopkeepers and with the bulk of the people, as has been proved by numerously signed petitions presented from some places asking for police stations being fixed there, or that a station that had been fixed there should not be removed elsewhere.

The native material available is not of the best for this particular purpose; but it is the endeavour of the Inspector-General of Police to select the best of what he has to choose from; to improve it by discipline and instruction as much as may be; and then to make the best use of it possible. An attempt made to employ a notable number of Europeans in the force, such as soldiers who have taken their discharge, and the like, has failed, owing to the incurable intemperance of too many of this class of men, in this climate.

In checking disorder, and preventing all serious disorder, the success of the force has been complete; and in every respect I see no reason to doubt that the men are steadily improving. The only occasion in which their quality, when acting as a body, was tested this year, occurred at the time of the Kingston Races, when a sudden and violent attack was made by a number of men of the West Indian Regiment upon townspeople amusing themselves in the booths. Some men on both sides were dangerously wounded; but the riot was suppressed in a creditable style by the Constabulary, who identified and brought to justice several of the offenders; and though a more serious disturbance was threatened next evening, the ill-feeling on both sides being very strong, a repetition of the offence was prevented by a display of adequate force.

Post Office.

On the 1st July, 1868, three weekly posts both ways were established throughout the Island, in place of the two weekly posts formerly in operation.

The annual cost of the conveyance of the bi-weekly mails was 4,078*l.* 15*s.*, exclusive of additional charges for special expresses both ways twice a month, in connection with the English mail-packet. The annual cost of the conveyance of the tri-weekly mails under new arrangements was 4,487*l.* 13*s.*, inclusive of all charges for such special expresses. Thus the facilities for correspondence have been increased by 50 per cent, at a comparatively small increase of cost.

Botanic Garden and Cinchona Plantation.

Of the Botanic Garden there is little worth special mention here applicable to the year under report. This institution is in its infancy, having been transferred only in 1861 to Castleton on the Agualta River, from Bath, in St. Thomas, where the trees too old for transplanting still remain.

It may be mentioned, however, that 600 plants of Assam tea arrived during the year in good order, and have been planted out successfully.

The Cinchona plantation is a most interesting experiment, which may now be pronounced to be a complete success. Cinchona plants were first received here in 1866, when their propagation was energetically commenced. By the close of 1867 the number of young plants had so much increased, that it became necessary to provide land for their final establishment on a planter's scale.

Six hundred acres of virgin forest on Blue Mountain were acquired at a small cost early in the year, and were set apart for the purposes of a Cinchona plantation, for which the place is in every way admirably suited. The elevation of this property above the sea ranges from 4,000 to 6,000 feet. It is situated at a distance of no more than about 24 miles from Kingston. It is well watered, has the best aspects, and possesses a soil reported to be excellently well adapted to the requirements of the cinchona. Fifty acres were cleared, of which forty were filled with cinchonas in the course of the year. About 20,000 plants of five different species of cinchona were planted.

By the latest accounts all these plants were in full vigour, and the plantation must by this time be doubled in extent. The plants have stood one of the dryest seasons that has ever been remembered on Blue Mountain, without suffering in the least. There is now no doubt that the cinchona can be successfully reared in Jamaica. There could be no more valuable addition to the staples of the Colony.

A substantial green-house and a hot-pit heated by a furnace and flue have been

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erected at an elevation of about 4,800 feet, sufficient for the propagation of about 2,000 plants a month. Houses for the superintendent and labourers have also been erected.

In answer to the first notice of plants for sale, deliverable in the spring of the year 1869, hardly 2,000 plants were applied for by private persons; a result which Mr. Thompson, the superintendent, justly remarks contrasts unfavourably with that of the first announcement of cinchona plants for sale in India, at a price 150 per cent. higher than the price of those offered here. We must hope that with the growth of the plants a spirit of intelligent enterprise will grow amongst the proprietors of mountain wastes, sufficient to induce them to turn some attention to a highly-promising experiment such as this, involving, indeed, some trouble, but very little outlay in money.

Education.

All the elementary schools that applied to the Government for aid this year underwent a thorough examination by the Inspector of Schools and two assistants, under the rules established in 1867, as described in the Blue Book Report for that year.

Of 286 schools inspected, it was found that only 96 came up to the Government standard, of which one only was placed in the first class, six in the second class, and eighty-nine in the third class.

Thus a large proportion of the schools (two-thirds of the whole) failed to attain the standard required. But the Inspector of Schools represented that a large number of the schools that had failed, although not at present coming up to the required degree of efficiency, nevertheless gave promise of improvement, and were not altogether useless, but helped in some measure to promote the cause of general education. He therefore recommended that all such schools as, not coming up to the Government standard, fell short of it only by a certain number of marks, should receive the favourable consideration of the Government. As it was considered very desirable not to discourage hopeful endeavours, and not to be too strict at the outset of a system which contrasted strongly with former laxity, this recommendation was adopted. The number of schools thus exceptionally treated amounted to eighty-eight, and grants equal to half what would have been given to schools coming up to the third class standard were given to them. To this class a sum of 798*l.* 16*s.* was granted by special order. To the ninety-six schools which passed the examination a sum of 2,115*l.* 6*s.* was granted in regular course. In this manner about two-thirds of the number of schools inspected received aid. The grants to all classes of schools amounted to 3,229*l.* 2*s.*

The following is a summary of the result of the inspection:—

Number of Schools inspected.	Passed.			Recommended.	Not recommended.
	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.		
286	1	6	89	88	102

Number of Pupils.	Present at Inspection.	Average Attendance.
19,764	14,453	12,216

Besides the schools inspected, there were 135 schools, with an average attendance of 4824 scholars, which were not entered for inspection.

The large proportion of schools which failed must not be regarded as a discouraging feature. This was the first time that any thorough examination of any schools had been made, or indeed that any inspection of schools had been made having any very practical purpose. Formerly grants in the main were made upon no system. Some grants were made to some religious bodies in the form of a round sum, which, of course, could not bear any true proportion to the real value of their schools. Many other denominational schools first received grants this year, as having come up for aid under the new rules for the first time; and many that actually received grants last year earned considerably more this year. It is satisfactory to find the Baptist schools earning this year about four times as much as they accepted last year; the Wesleyan schools about twice-and-a-half as much more; and the Moravian schools about 50 per cent. more. On this occasion not a penny was granted that had not been honestly and hardly earned. Whatever was spent on education this year was a true help to the cause of education. Nevertheless the grants in the aggregate actually exceed the grants in 1867 under the old indiscriminating system.

I am informed that a great improvement may be expected in the result of inspection in 1869. For although many worthy promoters of schools were disappointed at

the low place their schools took in 1869, yet in the vast majority of instances the disappointment was borne in an admirable spirit, and with a determination on the part of the promoters and masters to do better next time.

Our great difficulty in Jamaica is the paucity of good schoolmasters. There are any number of incapable schoolmasters, who are quite useless. I attribute this state of things to past laxity; for it is not the grant of money, but the grant of money with discrimination, that raises up a class of good schoolmasters.

The two first Government model schools, one at Bath in St. Thomas, and one at Falmouth, were established in the course of the year 1868, under trained masters brought out from England for this purpose. But they had not been long enough in operation at the close of the year, to be made the subject of any useful report.

There were besides twenty-six endowed elementary schools in operation, having 1,567 scholars. Being amply supported by their own funds, these schools are not aided by grants; but they were all examined and classified, the result showing five of the second class, five of the third class, and five of the class that would have been recommended; the remainder having wholly failed. I hope that the effect of inspection and emulation will be a marked improvement in this class of schools, not one of which has any excuse for its shortcoming.

There were also five normal schools in operation, having ninety students under instruction and training, either as ministers of religion or for the work of schoolteaching. These schools of course do not come within the rules regarding elementary schools.

Immigration.

In consequence of the mismanagement of the agent in India who was acting as immigration agent for Jamaica, no immigrants were received this year (1868), although applications were made for between three and four hundred. At the close of the year there were 1,471 immigrants under unexpired indenture for five years, against 2,120 in the same position at the same period in 1867. There were 1,575 immigrant coolies in industrial residence who had served their five years under indentures. Mr. W. M. Anderson, the Agent-General of Immigration here, was dispatched to India in the month of July as Indian Immigration Agent for Jamaica. Applications were received in 1868 for 1,342 immigrants to arrive in 1869. These coolies have arrived, and a new law has been passed for their protection, and for the improvement of the immigration system generally; which will form a subject for next year's report. It may be observed here, however, that the coolies sent us by Mr. Anderson are spoken of in very high terms.

Savings Banks.

The returns show the following results, as compared with those of the preceding year:—

	No. of Banks.	Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
1867	9	2,278	£54,807
1868	8	2,524	£58,931
Increase in 1868		246	£4,124

The increase in the number of depositors, and in the amount in deposit, is satisfactory, considering the disaster of the Falmouth Bank in 1867.

Crime.

The year's criminal statistics show an increase of convictions, which in regard to offences against property I am inclined to attribute mainly to the increased vigilance consequent on the operation of an organized constabulary, under a responsible chief.

The increase has been in convictions for the following crimes:—

Rape	12
Attempts to commit rape	17
Cutting and wounding	3
Larceny	95
Burglary and larceny	19
Larceny of growing crops	181
Assault	36
Obeah	23
Perjury	1
Arson	3

JAMAICA.

A decrease occurred in convictions for the following crimes:—

Murder	2
Manslaughter	8
Unnatural offences and attempts	5
Horse and cattle stealing	11
Sheep stealing	13
Embezzlement	21
Forgery	4

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports for the last three years amounted to—

1866.	1867.	1868.
£1,030,976	£859,186	£1,024,566

showing for the year under report 165,380*l.* more than in 1867, and but 6,410*l.* less than in 1866.

The value of the exports for the last three years amounted to—

1866.	1867.	1868.
£1,152,898	£1,045,094	£1,138,804

The exports of the principal staples for the last three years were as shown in the following table:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
Sugar - - - - cwt.	600,836	515,901	637,478
Rum - - - - galls.	1,765,775	1,728,832	2,927,077
Coffee - - - - lbs.	8,413,532	6,264,861	7,758,985
Pimento - - - - „	4,866,239	7,595,800	4,373,259
Dyewoods - - - - tons.	36,570	48,481	49,129
Ginger - - - - - lbs.	1,550,166	1,728,075	2,036,921
Arrowroot - - - „	70,204	44,566	27,346

The increased export of rum, both positively and comparatively with the export of sugar, is a striking feature. So also is the increasing export of ginger, the production exclusively of the small cultivator.

Public Health.

I have been favoured by Dr. Steventon, the able medical superintendent of the Public Hospital, who is also secretary of the Central Board of Health, with the following account of the state of health in this Island for the year under report; which as it is concise and interesting, I here enter at large:—

"During the year 1868 the health of the Island of Jamaica was unusually good; small-pox, diphtheria, and yellow fever, of zymotic diseases, occurred, but not extensively or as an actual epidemic; the nearest approach to the epidemic condition was in the conterminous parishes of Trelawney and St. James, where small-pox prevailed at one time rather extensively, but not very fatally.

"The cases of yellow fever were confined mainly to the shipping, and did not extend at all seriously among the population at large."

General Remarks.

During the year under report, and from its conclusion up to the present time, the tranquillity of the Island has been undisturbed.

The only incident worthy of notice in connection with this subject, occurred in the parish of Clarendon in August, 1868. Actions had been brought in the District Court by a proprietor against some black settlers at a place called "Trout Hall," who insisted upon retaining the proprietor's land without paying rent; and who, on judgment being given against them, openly announced their determination to resist the bailiff of the District Court if he came to enforce the writs against them, and threatened to illtreat their minister when he advised them to do no such thing. The conduct of the people was such as to induce a fear that the enforcement of legal process would be resisted, and

lead to a riot. It was thought advisable to make sure of the peaceful execution of the judgment of the law, and to take the opportunity of making some little demonstration, such as would impress the neighbourhood with the wholesome truth, that whilst the poorest and most remote settlers have now in reality the practical means of obtaining justice for themselves, they, like everybody else, must peacefully obey the law, against the powers of which no numbers in any part of the Island have any chance from resistance. Accordingly, just before the writs were issued, the Inspector-General of Police proceeded to Chapelton, the head place of the parish, where a party of 47 men of the Constabulary were suddenly congregated. The day after the Inspector-General's arrival was market day, and the men were paraded and put through some manœuvres in the public square, while, as Major Prenderville reports—" a large concourse of country " people were admiringly looking on." No sooner was the parade over than the Inspector-General was waited upon by some of the parties interested in the land case, who, after receiving a little good advice judiciously given, declared their determination to give up peaceable possession of the lands in question, and to be obedient to the law at any cost. When the warrants arrived the Inspector-General proceeded with the bailiff to Trout Hall settlement, accompanied only by two mounted orderlies. There he found an assemblage of between 200 and 300 people, whom he addressed in the schoolhouse, " on the land question as it affects Jamaica at present; the rights of property; " and the duty of people to yield obedience to the laws." When he ended Major Prenderville says—" the people one and all were loud in their expression of good will to " the Government, and profuse in their promises of obedience to the judgments of the " Courts." The actual defendants immediately proposed to give up their grounds, whereof peaceable possession was then taken by the bailiff, and handed over by him to the agent of the proprietor.

This as it reads is a very slight incident; but remembering what occurred only three years before, and the description given by the Governor and Legislature of the state of feeling in every part of the Island at that time, it is significant.

The sugar crop of 1868, viz. 35,901 hogsheads, was exceptionally large; and in most other articles also, pimento being an exception, the exports of that year showed an increase over those of the preceding year. Owing to an excessive and long continued drought, there will be a serious falling off in this current year's crops. It is to be hoped that high prices will compensate for short crops in 1869.

I have, &c.,

30th October, 1869. (Signed) J. P. GRANT.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor LONGDEN, to Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

(No. 47.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, May 17, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868, and to submit the following report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue actually received between the 1st of January and the 31st of December, 1868, amounted to 42,416*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of 6,690*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* over the revenue of 1867.

3. Of this large addition to the revenue, the sum of 3,506*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* was derived from the new land tax, which came into operation on the 1st of January, 1868. The sum of 1,188*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* was added to the repayments made on account of the immigration loan. The Colonial Post Office revenue was increased by 486*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, arising chiefly from the commission on money orders issued here. The tonnage duties yielded an increase of 421*l.* 8*s.*, and the light dues an increase of 437*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The import duties show a great variation in the amount of duties received on various articles, and in the aggregate there is an increase of 328*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* On other sources of revenue there is on the whole a net increase of 330*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

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4. The expenditure of the year 1868 was 39,720*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, exceeding that of 1867 by 7,076*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

5. This increase is made up of the following items. A sum of 2,000*l.* paid to the War Department on account of the expenses incurred in the hostile operations on the western frontier in 1866–67; a sum of 1,245*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* expended in the pay of the frontier police force established in 1868; a sum of 979*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* expended in the construction and improvement of roads, chiefly those leading out of Belize towards the northern district; and a sum of 937*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* expended upon public works. The visitation of Asiatic cholera in the earlier months of 1868 entailed upon the Colony an expense of 809*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; and the increased subsidy paid for the mail service caused an excess of 1,074*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* in this item. In the salaries of the civil officers, the maintenance of the different public departments, the cost of public printing, and general expenditure, there was an aggregate increase of 5,744*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* over the expenditure of 1867. This last increase is almost wholly due to the payment, in 1868, of a portion of the salaries and other charges incurred in 1867, but left unpaid at the end of that year.

6. The various additions to the expenditure which I have here specified amount in all to 12,790*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; but, on the other hand, there was a decrease in some items of expenditure amounting in the whole to 5,713*l.* 12*s.*, thereby reducing the net increase of the expenditure to the sum I have already stated, namely, 7,076*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

7. The decrease of expenditure includes the following items. The "Indian Raids Expenditure," which in 1867 amounted to 2,747*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, was reduced in 1868 to 4*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, showing a decrease of 2,743*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* A saving of 895*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* was effected by the suspension of the Militia Act in June, 1868. A sum of 372*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* was economized in the expenses of the civil police force; and 347*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* in the expenses of the agent in London. The other items in which there has been a decrease of expenditure amount in the aggregate to 1,355*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; but it may be noted that the decrease of 503*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, entered in the "Comparative Tables" in the Blue Book under the head of "Expenditure of former years," is merely nominal, a much larger sum than that having been expended in 1868, as I have already mentioned, in paying off the arrears of 1867.

8. The revenue received last year is the greatest that has, I believe, been yet raised in any single year within the Colony, and is double the ordinary revenue, which, for the last 34 years (1834–1867) has averaged only 21,167*l.* a-year. To raise this revenue the customs duties have been retained at the enormous rate of 10 per cent. ad valorem on all ordinary articles, and at higher fixed rates on spirits, wine, beer, and other articles. But it is generally felt that it would be impossible to maintain these high duties without injury to trade.

9. Looking at the rapid diminution which has taken place during the last two years in the export of mahogany, and the time which must elapse before sugar can be grown in sufficient quantities to take the place of mahogany as the staple export of the Colony, I scarcely think that the revenue can be maintained at its present high level. The expenditure has been largely augmented during the last few years, and may perhaps be judiciously reduced again without injury to the public service.

Public Debt.

10. The public debts of the Colony at the end of the year 1868 amounted in the whole to 50,165*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, and the amount in the several sinking funds to 7,060*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, showing a net amount of indebtedness of 43,104*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*

11. The public debt consists of the following five items:—

First. The South of Belize improvement loan, borrowed in 1863 and 1864. The original loan was 19,800*l.*, and the amount still outstanding on the 31st December last was 17,727*l.* 4*s.* The balance at the credit of the sinking fund of this loan is 2,442*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

Second. The immigration loan, borrowed in the years 1864 to 1867. The amount borrowed amounted altogether to 16,550*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* No part has been repaid. The balance at the credit of the sinking fund of this loan is 3,144*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

Third. The Treasury bills authorized by the Act of 1867, and issued in 1867 and 1868, to satisfy demands upon the Treasury, which was at that time empty. The land tax is specially appropriated to pay off these notes, which must be redeemed within two years from the date of their issue. The whole amount issued was 5,000*l.*, and the balance at the credit of the sinking fund on the 31st December was 1,473*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* These notes will all be redeemed during the ensuing twelve months.

Fourth. The sum due to the War Department for the extraordinary expenses of the

expeditions undertaken against the Indians in 1867, and the maintenance of the frontier posts up to the time of their respective withdrawals to Belize in the course of the year 1868. The sum of 2,000*l.* was paid to the War Department last year on account of this debt. The balance remaining due is 7,945*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Lastly. The balance still due to the General Post Office for postal service in the year 1864, amounting to 2,943*l.* This debt was originally 4,443*l.*, and is being paid off at the rate of 1,000*l.* per annum, out of the moiety of the subsidy paid by the Imperial Government in aid of the conveyance of the Honduras mails between New Orleans and Belize.

Expenditure incurred by the Colony on account of its Military Defence.

12. The whole expenditure incurred by the Colony on account of its military defence was 4,302*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

13. Of this sum 1,245*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* was expended in the pay of the frontier police, the purchase of horses, arms, ammunition, equipments, and uniforms, the rent of quarters, and miscellaneous charges. The frontier police is a force raised under the provisions of an Act passed on the 17th of February, 1868, for the protection of the north-western frontier. The force is authorized to consist of an inspector, serjeant, 2 corporals, and 20 privates. On the passing of the Act, I nominated Captain Plumridge, formerly of Her Majesty's 9th Regiment, to the Inspectorship, and authorized him to enlist 14 men for the service. Subsequently, on the receipt of disquieting intelligence from the frontier, I authorized him to raise his force to 18 men, at which number it has since been maintained. The men are armed with a Colt's revolver and a macheat, or cutlass. The head-quarters of the force are at San Antonio, Albion Island. Detachments are posted at Dos Cocos, Isla Limones, Corosalito, and Achiote, all on the Hondo. These stations and all the intervening hamlets on the river are visited constantly by the inspector and his corporals. The service is one of considerable exposure and hardship, and can only be performed by men inured to the climate. Between the establishment of the force and the end of December, a period of less than nine months, nine men quitted the service. Most of the frontier policemen now enrolled are discharged soldiers from West India regiments.

14. The frontier police have been thus far successful in attaining the object for which they were established, and order and tranquillity have been maintained upon the border. The state of things in the north-western district at the time of the formation of the frontier police is thus described by Captain Plumridge in a report dated 29th January, 1869:—"On the arrival and formation of the frontier police at San Antonio (April, 1868) "the small villages on the banks of the Rio Hondo were entirely abandoned; there was "no trade whatever, everything was at a standstill; the people at the larger towns were "in a very unsettled state, and ready to leave on the approach of a party of Indians." Captain Plumridge then proceeds to say (speaking in January last), that "the people who "left the district during the late disturbances are gradually returning. The trade in "the river is increasing every day. The British Honduras Company have nearly "300 men employed at their mahogany works at Cacao Creek, Betson Bank, and Quām "Hill. Señor Castillo employs about 100 hands cutting logwood at Corosalito, besides "other small traders. The Indians have commenced to bring cattle, horses, hogs, "and other produce for sale, &c., &c." In like manner the northern district magistrate, in a report dated 27th March, 1869, says:—"The hitherto too easily alarmed and panic-"stricken population of this district, who from time to time fled at considerable sacrifice "of their household stuffs and property, are now peaceably settled, following with "satisfaction and happiness their usual avocations, utterly forgetful of their numerous "past discomforts."

15. One of the advantages derived from the establishment of the frontier police, and the station of an officer of Captain Plumridge's rank upon the border, has been the opening of direct communications with the chiefs of the Ycaiché Indians, and the avoidance thereby of misunderstandings such as those which led to the disasters of 1866 and 1867. Another indirect advantage has been the enabling me to withdraw the garrisons placed by Lieutenant-Governor Austin and Colonel Harley at Orange Walk, Indian Church, and Young Girl, whereby a larger sum has been saved to the Colony than the whole cost of the frontier police.

16. The expenditure upon the militia in 1868 amounted to 670*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, and that upon the volunteer force to 209*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* In the month of June, 1868, I thought it expedient for several reasons to issue a proclamation suspending the operation of the Militia Act, as far as weekly drill was concerned, the services of the quartermaster being

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retained, with sufficient assistance for the proper care of the arms, accoutrements, and stores.

17. The rest of the military expenditure incurred by the Colony in 1868 consists of a sum of 2,000*l.* paid to the War Department on account, and small sums amounting in all to 177*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* paid for rent of buildings, and medical attendance provided for Her Majesty's troops while they were stationed at Corosal or Orange Walk.

Expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the Military Protection of the Colony.

18. The amount of this expenditure for 1868 is stated by the Controller to have been 18,464*l.* 5*s.* Of this sum 1,896*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* has been charged to the Colony for the extraordinary expenses incurred in the maintenance of troops in the interior previous to their withdrawal, reducing the charge upon the Imperial Government to 16,567*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* The charges of the year 1868 were unavoidably increased by the outbreak of Asiatic cholera in Belize at the end of 1867, in consequence of which I ordered the troops, with the concurrence of the military and medical authorities, to be removed to Corosal and there encamped under canvas, a measure which was happily successful in averting the mortality which might otherwise have been reasonably expected to occur.

Public Works.

19. The total expenditure on public works and roads for the year 1868 amounted to 2,485*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

20. The principal public work undertaken in 1868 was the erection, on one of the small islands in the Bay of Honduras, called Maugre Cay, of a skeleton iron lighthouse to carry three lights. This work had long been in contemplation, the light being a most necessary one for the safety of all vessels approaching Belize from the north and east. The three lights for this lighthouse were imported from England as far back as 1864, at a cost of 577*l.* On their arrival it was found that they could only be erected on a properly constructed tower, and a skeleton iron tower was accordingly imported in 1866, at a cost of 1,043*l.* This tower was erected last year, at a cost of 656*l.*, making the total cost of the lighthouse 2,276*l.* The light has been exhibited since the 22nd of October, 1868.

21. The next important work was the repair of the foundations of the market-house, Belize, which had been undermined by the river and become dangerously insecure. This work has been completed, as far as is necessary for the safety of the building, at a cost of 317*l.*, but the building itself, which is of iron, requires much repair and repainting, and the stone pavement requires relaying on a bed of concrete, the soft earth on which it was laid having yielded to the weight in many places. An iron tank removed from the ruined Government House at St. George's Cay has been brought over and erected at the market-house for the supply of rain-water to the poorer inhabitants of Belize, who depend entirely on the public tanks, having no private cisterns. The cost of this work was 94*l.*

22. The road from Belize to the north and north-western parts of the Colony, after passing the Belize River at a ferry called the Haulover, crosses a dense mangrove swamp known as Tillett's Pond. A bridge or causeway made of trunks of trees was some time ago constructed for the purpose of crossing this swamp, but before my arrival in the Colony it had fallen into such utter ruin that it was impossible even for a man on foot to go over it, and the public were obliged to wade through the pond, a most inconvenient and somewhat dangerous proceeding, as the pond is infested by alligators. The Assembly having voted 2,000 dollars for reconstructing a bridge, the work was awarded by the Road Commissioners, after public competition, to Colonel Mechling, formerly an American engineer officer, who has settled here, and he has constructed a solid earthen causeway across the swamp, with sufficient openings, properly bridged over, to admit the flow of water. The work has been well and solidly completed, and having stood through the wet season without any deterioration, may be pronounced a permanent improvement. The cost of the work was 405*l.*

23. The ferry-boat and landing-places at the Haulover Ferry on the Belize River having fallen into a ruinous state of dilapidation, the ferry-boat was substantially repaired, and two new landing-places were designed and commenced, which have only been completed during the present year. The amount expended on this work in 1868 was 187*l.*

24. On other roads, and on the streets of Belize, a sum in all of 326*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* was expended, of which 134*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* was paid from the Crown fund, in pursuance of the authority granted to me by the Secretary of State.

25. The state of many of the public buildings, especially the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, having been brought under the notice of the Legislature, the Assembly appropriated 1,500 dollars, or 300*l.*, for the repair of the public buildings generally. With this sum much repair has been done to the Public Hospital; the roof of the Lunatic Asylum has been re-covered with galvanized iron, and many necessary repairs have been effected upon the Government House and outbuildings, the different lighthouse keepers' houses, St. John's Church, and other public buildings. The whole amount expended upon these repairs was 498*l.* 6*s.*, of which 126*l.* 13*s.* was paid from the Crown fund, and the remainder from the Colonial treasury. I regret to say that the report of the Surveyor of Public Works, made in January last, discloses a very heavy list of repairs still needed to put the public buildings in decent repair.

Legislation.

26. The following Acts were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1868:—

Cap. 1. "An Act to amend an Act passed in 1867 for the appointment of notaries public, by requiring a certificate in writing from the Chief Justice of the fitness of the person to be appointed, and reducing the tax or fee on the appointment from 50*l.* to 10*l.*"

Cap. 2. "An Act to authorize the appointment of fire-wardens, whose appointment had not been made within the time limited by law."

Cap. 3. "An Act to authorize the provision of steam barges in lieu of the armed steamer authorized by the British Honduras Naval Defence Act, 1866." The construction of these barges was subsequently postponed with the assent of Her Majesty's Government.

Cap. 4. "An Act for better securing the peace of the frontier." This Act requires amendment, and has not yet been brought into operation.

Cap. 5. "An Act for the establishment of a frontier police." I have already alluded to the usefulness of the force raised under the authority of this Act. The formation of this force being a tentative measure, the duration of the Act was limited by the Assembly to the 31st of August, 1870.

Cap. 6. "An Act to authorize the practice of permitting the separation of jurors during the adjournments of the trials of criminal cases." This Act was passed at the instance of the Chief Justice. Its object is explained in the title.

Cap. 7. "An Act to continue in force the Customs Tariff of 1867 for another year, and to rectify the manner of granting coasting licences, which are now regulated according to the nature of the voyage and not by the nationality of the vessel."

Cap. 8. "An Act to amend the law of master and apprentice, by giving to the Police Magistrate the summary jurisdiction over complaints between masters and apprentices given to Justices of the Peace in England."

Cap. 9. This Act repeals an Act of 1864 by which the sessions of the Supreme Court were reduced to three annually, and restores the four quarterly sessions. A beneficial effect of the Act is of course to abridge the term of imprisonment before trial.

Cap. 10. This Act transfers to the Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council the powers heretofore vested in the Board of Education, and reduces the educational grant from 1,200*l.* to 1,000*l.* per annum. A similar Act was passed by the Assembly in 1867, at the instance of Lieutenant-Governor Austin, but was afterwards returned by Mr. Austin to the Assembly for amendment, and fell through. The action which has been taken under this Act will be reported under the general head of Education.

Cap. 11. "An Act to amend the Land and Property Tax Act, 1867." This Act is sufficiently explained by its title.

Cap. 12. "An Act to abolish the office of Inspector of Police." The police in Belize are under the supervision of the Police Magistrate, and it was considered sufficient to place them under the immediate command of a chief serjeant. The late inspector had been relieved from his duties before the abolition of the office, and received a gratuity of one month's pay for each year of service.

Cap. 13 is the Annual Appropriation Act.

Cap. 14 nominates certain commissioners to inquire and report to the House at its next session on the following subjects:—

1st. Import duties, dues, and taxes.
2nd. Land and property tax.
3rd. The establishment of industrial schools.
4th. The standing rules of the House.
5th. The quarantine regulations.
6th. The transfer of the control over the Crown lands to the Colony.

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Cap. 15. "An Act to encourage the immigration of agricultural and other labourers into the Colony of British Honduras." By this Act it is provided that one-third of the cost of the passage-money of any labourers, not exceeding five pounds for each adult, shall be paid from the immigration funds to the person introducing them. This Act has not yet received the Royal Assent, it being required that the Lieutenant-Governor should be empowered to proclaim the ports from whence such immigrants may be imported. A Bill to effect this amendment was laid before the Legislative Assembly in the present session, and is under their consideration.

Cap. 16. "An Act to amend and continue the Act entitled An Act for raising a militia force in British Honduras." By this Act the Militia Act of 1866 is continued for another year, and power is given to the Lieutenant-Governor to suspend the operation of the Act from time to time, during which suspension the arms, accoutrements, and stores belonging to the militia remain in charge of the quartermaster, who is a paid officer.

27. The only proclamations of any importance issued in 1868 were, one issued on the 24th of June, suspending the operation of the Militia Act under the provisions of the law just referred to; and one issued on the 4th of November, proclaiming the boundaries of the district under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Magistrate of the northern district.

Council and Assembly.

28. The Executive Council of British Honduras consists of the following official members, viz. the officer commanding Her Majesty's troops, the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Attorney-General, and three unofficial members. The unofficial members are nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, subject to the approval of Her Majesty, and hold their places in the Council during Her Majesty's pleasure, but in no case longer than during the "existence of the Legislative Assembly for the time "being." The seats of the unofficial members are vacated on the day on which writs shall be issued for the election of a new Assembly. The duration of the Assembly is limited by the Constitution Act to four years. In this way the Lieutenant-Governor has the opportunity of changing his constituted advisers from time to time when circumstances make it expedient to do so.

29. There have been several changes in the Council during the last twelve months. On the 3rd of September, Captain Edmunds, of the 4th West India Regiment, who had succeeded Brigadier-General Harley in the command of the troops, and Captain Charles Bullen Hugh Mitchell, R.M., who had succeeded Lieutenant Hankin, R.N., as Colonial Secretary, were sworn in as ex-officio members of the Council. On the 4th of September, Mr. Valancourt H. McDonald was appointed (and has since been confirmed) an unofficial member in the place of Mr. Antonio Mathé, deceased. On the departure for England, on leave, of Mr. Chief Justice Corner, Mr. Plues, the Attorney-General, was appointed acting Chief Justice of the Colony, and Mr. Cockburn, the Police Magistrate, was appointed to act as Attorney-General. Mr. Cockburn was accordingly sworn in, as an ex-officio member of the Council, and held his seat until the 25th of September following, when Mr. Walcott was appointed Acting Chief Justice, and Mr. Plues resumed his office as Attorney-General, and his seat at the Council table.

30. In the Assembly, which consists of 18 elective and three nominated members, few changes took place during the year. Two elective seats were vacant at the end of 1867, and in January, 1868, a third seat became vacant by the death of Mr. Thomson. These three seats have been filled up by the election of Mr. Harrison, Captain Hall (late of the 2nd West India Regiment), and Mr. Forrester. It is a remarkable circumstance that on issuing a writ, in February, 1868, for the election of two members for two of the vacant seats, the Provost Marshal made a return that no persons had been nominated for the seats, and they remained vacant until the following November, when I issued a new writ, and two members were nominated and elected.

31. The nominated seats are nearly always filled up by the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Attorney-General. The only change in the course of the year 1868 was the substitution of Captain Mitchell, now Colonial Secretary, for Mr. Hankin, the late Secretary.

32. The present Assembly was elected in December, 1865, and will, therefore, expire in December next unless sooner dissolved.

33. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business is 11, and although there are 21 members in the House, yet sickness, absence from town, and other causes, prevent so many members from attending, that it is often found impossible to get a quorum. It

would much facilitate legislative business of all kinds if the quorum were reduced to seven members. The session of 1868 was opened on the 31st of January and closed on the 28th of April.

Civil Establishment.

34. The following permanent changes took place in the civil establishment in 1868. The appointment of Captain Mitchell as Colonial Secretary, in place of Mr. Hankin, appointed to Sierra Leone. The appointment of Mr. Richard Pine as Clerk of the Courts, in place of Mr. Leach, deceased. The removal of Mr. Patrick Cunningham, Inspector of Police, and the abolition of his office. The establishment of the frontier police, and the appointment of Captain Plumridge as inspector. The death of Mr. Henry Schürer, Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, and lapse of the office. The death of Mr. Edward Potts Usher, Assistant Crown Surveyor, and lapse of the office. The appointment of Mr. James Wells Blakeley to be Acting Surveyor of Works and Buildings.

35. The principal temporary changes in the establishment were the absence, on leave, of Chief Justice Corner from the 1st of August, and the appointment, first of Mr. Plues, the Attorney-General, and afterwards of Mr. Walcott, to execute his office; and the appointment of Mr. Bristowe to act as Clerk of Courts during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Leach, who died on his voyage to England, and was succeeded by Mr. Richard Pine.

Foreign Consuls.

36. Several changes took place among the consular body in Belize. Mr. A. J. Levy, the consul for Sweden and Norway, quitted the Colony, leaving his consulate in charge of Mr. McDonald as acting consul. Mr. Matthias Levy, consul for Denmark and for Belgium, also left the Colony, and appointed Mr. McDonald to act as consul for Denmark. Mr. Cramer, lately consul for the King of Prussia, received a new appointment as consul for the North German Confederation. The death of Mr. Mathé, consul for the republics of Guatemala and Salvador, left those consulates vacant. Mr. William Binney has since been appointed as consul for Guatemala.

Population, Immigration, Pauperism, &c.

37. The population can only be authoritatively given, on the census of 1861, as 25,635. It is estimated on data which I think can be relied upon to be at present between 29,000 and 30,000.

38. There is no civil registry of births, marriages, and deaths; but in the Blue Book, the number of baptisms, marriages, and burials, by the Anglican, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic clergymen, is entered. The total number of baptisms is said to have been 839, of marriages 297, and of burials 293. I neither place much reliance on the accuracy of these figures themselves, nor do I think that, if accurate, the number of baptisms or burials would show the number of births and deaths within the year. The number of baptisms may not only include children born in former years, but also Indians, or Chinese, or other persons converted to the Roman Catholic or other faith. The number of burials probably includes only those attended by a minister of religion, but many deaths took place all through the country, especially during the prevalence of the cholera, in which it was necessary to bury the body without the presence of any minister of religion. For example, the whole number of burials is stated to have been 293, while the number of the persons who were carried off by the cholera alone, exceeded 600.

39. The number of immigrants in 1868 is said to have been 550. Nearly all of these came from the United States. Some of them have returned to their own country and some have gone to Spanish Honduras, but many have remained and settled in various parts of the country.

40. The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st of December, 1868, was 77, being a decrease of 11 from the number in 1867. The amount on deposit was 1,554*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, being a reduction of 197*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* from the amount in 1867.

41. The number of paupers in the poor-house on the 31st of December, 1868, was 16, and those receiving out-door relief numbered 43, making a total of 59 paupers, against 70 on 31st December, 1867.

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Ecclesiastical.

42. The spiritual wants of the community cannot be said to be insufficiently provided for. There are 11 recognized ministers of the Gospel among the different sects, besides assistants, and local preachers.

43. The census of 1861 gave the following results as to the religion of the people :—

Roman Catholics - - - - - -	17,194
Protestants (of all sects) - - - -	8,349
Heathens - - - - - -	80
Other religions - - - - -	12
Total - -	25,635

44. It is not probable that these proportions are materially altered. The Roman Catholics have received accessions to their numbers in the Spaniards and Charibs, who have settled in the Colony from the surrounding republics. The number of Protestants has been increased by the immigration from the United States. The Chinese imported in 1864 swelled the number of other religions.

45. The Roman Catholics number two-thirds of the whole population of the Colony. They have a commodious brick church in Belize, of which Father Avvaro is the resident minister. In Corosal they have a church, of which Father Parchi is the minister. At North Stann Creek, a Charib village on the coast, 40 miles south of Belize, containing 1,600 people, they have a church, of which Father Brindisi is minister; and at Punta Gorda, near the southern limit of the territory, there is another chapel, of which Father Génon is minister. Besides these principal chapels, they have four places of worship in other villages, where Divine Service is celebrated by the priests on their occasional visits. All the priests in this Colony are, I believe, members of the Society of Jesus. They are active and earnest missionaries, visiting almost every village or settlement where there are any Roman Catholics. They take an active share in the work of education, and have schools in Belize, Corosal, Sarteneja, and North Stann Creek. They have no endowment, but are supported by voluntary contributions. Grants of public money were made in aid of the building of the Catholic churches in Belize and Corosal.

46. The Protestants are sub-divided into four principal sects, namely, members of the Church of England, members of the Scotch Presbyterian Kirk, Wesleyan Methodists, and Baptists.

47. The Church of England was established, and has been supported entirely at the public expense. A tablet in St. John's Church bears the following inscription, recording the foundation of the church and the endowment of the minister :—

"The inhabitants of the British settlement of Belize, in the Bay of Honduras, being "desirous that the Public Service of God should be regularly performed amongst them, "did, on the 22nd day of December, in the year of our Lord 1810, and in the fifty-first "year of the reign of His Britannic Majesty King George the Third, come to a reso-"lution to erect a building for that purpose, and to endow it with the sum of four "hundred pounds sterling per annum. Pursuant, therefore, to that act, this, the first "Protestant Episcopal Church in Spanish America, was erected and dedicated to St. "John the Baptist."

48. It would appear from this inscription that, at that time, St. John's Church was the only place of worship in the settlement.

49. The salary of the Incumbent of St. John's was subsequently raised to 600*l.* a-year, and a house was built for his accommodation. The church is provided, at the public expense, with a clerk, an organist, and a sexton, whose united salaries amount to 220*l.* 16*s.* a-year. The Incumbent of St. John's is ex-officio chaplain of the gaol. The average attendance at the Parish Church is said to be 350.

50. In the year 1846 further provision was made for a second clergyman of the Church of England, at a salary of 300*l.* a-year; and that part of Belize situate on the north side of the river was assigned to him as a separate district, under the name of the "District of St. Mary." A small church was subsequently erected in this district. The Incumbent of St. Mary's is required by law to perform Divine Service in the Public Hospital and to visit the sick there. He is allowed to hold the appointment and perform the duties of Garrison Chaplain, but if not appointed to the chaplaincy is entitled to

receive an additional 100*l.* a-year from the Colonial treasury, making the salary 400*l.* a-year, which is the amount drawn by the present Incumbent, Mr. Field, who performs a special service on Sundays for the garrison, for which he receives a small allowance, but has never been appointed Garrison Chaplain. To the Church of St. Mary's there is also attached a clerk, an organist, and a sexton, whose aggregate salaries from the public treasury amount to 96*l.* a-year. The average attendance at St. Mary's Church is stated to be 150.

51. The whole amount of the endowment of the Church of England in Belize is 6,584 dollars or 1,316*l.* 16*s.* per annum, exclusive of sums spent in the repair of the two churches, and the rectory attached to St. John's Church. As the average attendance at the two Anglican churches is stated to be 500, it would be difficult to assign a higher number than 2,500 as the number of members of the Church of England. The church is under the Episcopal supervision of the Bishop of Jamaica.

52. By an Act passed in 1850 an allowance of 300*l.* a-year was granted for the support of a Presbyterian minister. The members of the Kirk are estimated by their minister, the Rev. D. Arthur, to number 480. They have a handsome brick church in Belize, built by voluntary contributions with the aid of a grant from the public treasury, at which the average attendance is stated to be 150.

53. The most numerous Protestant sect appears to be the Wesleyan Methodists, who, according to the report of the Wesleyan Missionary Society for the year ending April, 1868, number 543, "full and accredited members," and 1,600 attendants in their several places of worship. In Belize they have a spacious and handsome brick chapel, at which the average attendance is estimated by the minister to be 600. Attached to this chapel are two commodious schoolrooms for boys and girls respectively. There is also a small wooden chapel in a suburb of Belize, called Freetown, at which service is regularly performed. There is one resident Wesleyan minister in Belize, and another at Corosal, who labours chiefly among the Spaniards and Indians. The Wesleyans have no endowment from public funds, but are supported by voluntary contributions, aided by the grants of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in England.

54. The remaining Protestant sect is that of Baptists. They have two places of worship in Belize. The average attendance at the principal chapel is said to be 250. They, like the Wesleyans and Roman Catholics, are unendowed.

55. At the new settlement recently formed by immigrants from the United States at Toledo, there is a resident minister, the Rev. Mr. Pearce, who was one of the immigrants themselves.

56. The very great inequality between the number of members of the Church of England and the Presbyterian Church, who together receive annually a gross sum of 1,616*l.*, or 8,080 dollars, from the public treasury, and the number of Roman Catholics, Wesleyans, and Baptists, who have no religious endowments from the State, though they number at least eight-tenths of the whole population, has from time to time excited much attention; and in the present session of the Legislative Assembly, a committee has been appointed to consider the subject, and a Bill has been introduced, which is still before the Assembly, to discontinue the various payments now made to the Church of England and the Presbyterian Kirk, on the occurrence of any vacancies in the offices now paid out of the public treasury. By this Bill the Church of St. John's, and the Rectory attached thereto, and the Church of St. Mary are secured for the use of the Church of England.

Education.

57. During the year 1868 a considerable change was made in the mode of administering the public money voted in aid of education. By an Act passed in the session of 1868, the late Board of Education was abolished, and its property is transferred to the Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council, to whom are entrusted the administration and management of all public moneys, to be from time to time granted in aid of education, and the supervision and control of all schools receiving aid. The Lieutenant-Governor and Council are also empowered to frame regulations:—First, for the Government inspection and public examination of all schools receiving aid, and for the government of the teachers, and determining the ages within which children shall be admissible thereto; Secondly, for securing a just and equitable distribution and appropriation of all funds at their disposal; and, Thirdly, generally for encouraging, establishing, maintaining, and testing efficient education throughout the Colony. By the first clause of the Act express power was given to the Lieutenant-Governor and Council to remove the teachers of the free school on six months' notice, according to their agreements.

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58. In the fulfilment of their duties the Council were mainly guided by the recommendations of a Select Committee appointed by the House of Assembly to consider the question, who recommended that the "central schools," which are in connection with the Church of England, should be discontinued; and that the only public aid to education should be an allowance for each pupil to be made to *all* teachers, of whose competence to teach the Board of Education should be satisfied.

59. In accordance with this recommendation, the necessary six months' notice was given, and the central schools were closed on the 30th September, 1868. The head master of the central schools has continued the boys' school under the new regulations, and I am glad to find, upon inquiry, that, with few exceptions, the other children formerly receiving their education in the central schools have been transferred to the schools now supported by grants in aid.

60. A brief and simple code of regulations was, in pursuance of the Act, carefully prepared and published, for regulating the distribution of the public grant, and for the guidance of the schools receiving aid. Under these regulations an annual grant is made to every school having an average daily attendance of 25 scholars, without distinction of religious sect or persuasion. The amount of this grant in aid is necessarily dependent on the amount of the appropriation made from time to time by the Assembly for educational purposes, and the number of schools amongst which the grant has to be divided. The rate is fixed at present at *two* shillings a-month, or 6 dollars a-year, for each child over 7 and under 14 years of age, and three-fourths of that sum for infants above 3 and under 7. No allowance is made for infants under 3, nor for children above 14 years of age. The allowance is calculated on the actual daily attendance at each school. The present grant is 5,000 dollars a-year, which will provide for the daily attendance of nearly 900 children.

61. These regulations, of which I annex copies, came into force on the 1st of October last, and up to the 31st of December *ten* schools had been admitted to share in the grant. The total number of children on the registers of these 10 schools was 629 boys and 364 girls, making a total of 993 children; and the average daily attendance for the three months, October, November, and December, was 684.

62. This system of grants in aid cannot be considered satisfactory without the appointment of a properly qualified inspector to overlook the schools, and ascertain, by actual examination of each pupil, that each schoolmaster makes sufficient progress in imparting a fair and elementary education to justify the continuance of aid to his school. But the payment of such an officer could not have been defrayed from the educational grant without unduly lessening the allowance to each school, and the state of the Colonial finances were not such as to enable me to ask the Legislature for a special grant for the purpose. The want of an inspector is to some extent supplied by the public examinations which are required to be held in each school as a condition of receiving aid. The examinations of the schools held just before Christmas last were all attended by members of the Executive Council, and (as far as I was able) by myself, and we considered that, on the whole, the result was fairly satisfactory.

63. Of the ten schools now receiving aid, four are in connection with the Church of Rome and one with the Church of England, three are Wesleyan schools, one Presbyterian, and one Baptist. As all are placed on precisely the same footing as regards the grant, the denominational system may be said to be practically established; and, looking at the differences, not only of religion, but also of language, which divide the population, I think this system is the only one which is likely to succeed in carrying education to the great bulk of the children. As a broad rule it may be said that the Protestant schools are frequented by the English-speaking part of the population, and the Roman Catholic schools by the children of Spaniards or Indians. It is required by the Regulations (Art. 4) that "in all schools receiving aid from the Board, where, by reason of the children speaking "a foreign language, the ordinary course of education cannot be conducted in English, "the children shall be specially taught to speak English."

64. Six of the schools receiving aid are in Belize. There are two schools, one Roman Catholic and one Wesleyan, in the town of Corosal. There is a Roman Catholic school in the village of Sarteneja in the northern district, and another in the Charib settlement of Stann Creek in the south, where there is also a small Wesleyan school, the number of pupils at which does not entitle it to aid. At a village called Northern River there is a small Baptist school, which has since the beginning of the present year been admitted to a share of the grant. As agriculture increases, and the population become more stationary in their habits, it will be possible to increase the means of education in the small villages, which could not be done as long as wood-cutting was the chief occupation of the people.

Imports and Exports.

65. The total value of the imports in 1868 was 177,683*l.* 14*s.*; of this total the value of 105,099*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* was imported from the United Kingdom, 72,496*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* from foreign countries, chiefly the United States, and only 86*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* from other Colonies.

66. These imports show a falling off of 12,812*l.* 10*s.*, as compared with the imports of 1867. Of this decrease the value of 6,951*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* occurred in the imports from the United Kingdom, 4,463*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* in those from foreign countries, and 1,397*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* in those from other British Colonies.

67. I am unable to trace with accuracy the specific articles in which this decrease occurred, because the returns in the Blue Book of 1867 exhibit only the total values of the imports from the United Kingdom, foreign countries, and the British Colonies respectively, and do not give either the specific quantities or values of each article respectively. In February last, when the compilation of the enclosed Blue Book was commenced, I drew the attention of the present Colonial Secretary, Captain Mitchell, to this, and he has this year compiled the return of imports in as detailed a form as the information at his command would permit.

68. The total exports of the year 1868 are valued at 203,659*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, exceeding those of 1867 by 17,489*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The exports to the United Kingdom reached the amount of 115,481*l.* 12*s.*, being an excess of 12,675*l.* 4*s.* over those of 1867. The exports to foreign countries were 88,177*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of 5,414*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The exports to other Colonies show a decrease of 600*l.*

69. The values of the different articles of export are not detailed in the Blue Book of 1867. I can only, therefore, compare the quantities of the staple articles.

70. The total quantity of mahogany exported in 1868 was only 3,006,619 feet, as against 4,155,926 in 1867, showing a decrease of 1,149,207 feet, which, at the average price in the Colony of 2¼*d.* per foot, amounts in value to 10,773*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* In my report upon the Blue Book for 1867 I drew attention to the gradual decline of the mahogany trade, and showed that in that year it had declined to an extent of more than a third upon the average of the preceding 10 years. The further decline in 1868 reduces the quantity exported to less than one-half of the average quantities in the 10 years, 1857–1866.

71. The decline in the export of mahogany is in value more than balanced by the additional export of logwood, the quantity of which increased from 4,528 tons in 1867, to 9,270¾ tons in 1868, which, at 3*l.* per ton, the average price *in the Colony*, showed an increase of 14 228*l.* 5*s.* in the value of the export of this article.

72. The quantity of sugar exported increased from 544 tons in 1867 to 762 tons 3½ cwt. in 1868, showing a net increase of 218 tons 3½ cwt., which at the low Colonial value of 13*l.* per ton, is equal to 2,836*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* This increase, though small in comparison with what had been, somewhat rashly perhaps, anticipated, is satisfactory.

73. The whole value of the actual produce of the Colony exported in 1868 was 68,394*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and consisted of the following articles, viz.:—

		£.	*s.*	*d.*
Mahogany	valued at	28,187	1	0¾
Logwood	„	27,812	5	0
Sugar	„	9,908	5	6
Rum and Molasses	„	549	10	0
Cedar and Fustic	„	1,149	8	4
Cocoa-nuts	„	735	0	6¾
Turtle	„	52	16	0
		£68,394	6	5½

74. The exports of merchandise, *not* the produce of the Colony, amounted to 134,465*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, and consisted, firstly, of the manufactures of the United Kingdom imported by the merchants and re-exported to the surrounding countries; and, secondly, of the produce of those countries, such as cochineal, coffee, hides, hemp, india-rubber, indigo, sarsaparilla, &c., brought to Belize for exportation to England.

75. The values placed upon the exports in the enclosed Blue Book differ widely from the values placed upon the same articles in former years. For instance, the value of mahogany in 1866 was computed at 4½*d.* per foot—in 1868 at 2¼*d.* per foot—logwood was computed at 5*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* per ton in 1866, and now at 3*l.* per ton; and sugar, which was valued in 1866 at 20*l.* per ton, is valued in the enclosed tables at only 13*l.* per ton. These revised values are the actual average wholesale price of the different

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articles *in the Colony*. The alteration of the estimated values has, of course, diminished the apparent value of the exports much beyond the proportionate decrease in the quantities exported.

Agriculture.

76. In the decline of the ancient trade of the Colony in mahogany, it becomes important to ascertain the advance which agriculture has already made, and to estimate therefrom its future progress.

77. The Colonial Secretary has at my request collected, through the assistance of the district magistrates and others, tolerably full information as to the extent of land in cultivation in each district, the quantity of the produce raised, and the machinery on the several estates.

78. The produce is chiefly sugar (of which 1,033 tons were made in 1868), rum, Indian corn, and rice; sugar is the principal article of export. The Indian corn and rice are grown chiefly for consumption in the Colony.

79. There are *ten* estates devoted to the cultivation of sugar on which steam machinery has been erected. Three of these estates have been fitted with concretors. I subjoin a list of these estates, but it is necessary to remark that the present acreage in cane is only a small part of that which it is intended to cultivate if the growth of sugar should turn out to be profitable :—

Name of Estate.	Estimated Acreage in Cane.	Name of Owners.	Where situate.
San Andres - - -	200	J. Carmichael - -	Corosal.
Caledonia - - -	230	Phillips and Co. - -	New River.
Santa Cruz - - -	210	British Honduras Co. -	Ditto.
Trial Farm - -	150	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
Tower Hill - - -	156	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
Indian Church - -	230	Ditto - - -	New River Lagoon.
Regalia - - -	250	The late A. Mattié - -	Sittee River.
Boissieres - - -	80	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
Wiesaw - - - -	40	Ditto - - -	Ditto.
Seven Hills - -	137	Young, Toledo, and Co. -	Between Rio Grande and Middle River.

80. On three of these estates, Caledonia, Indian Church, and Seven Hills, new and very powerful steam machinery has been erected within the last 18 months, calculated to be sufficient for at least four times the extent of land yet in cultivaion.

81. Besides these 10 large estates, there are 32 small estates or milpas, cultivated partly in sugar and partly in Indian corn, by the Spaniards who immigrated into the northern district from Yucatan. On these "milpas," as they are called, the extent of land in cane varies from 5 acres to 110 acres. In the whole of the milpas together there are 1,015 acres of cane land, giving an average of nearly *thirty-two* acres to each milpa. There are, on the different milpas, 43 small cattle mills with the usual boilers and apparatus for making sugar. There are also 34 small distilleries for the manufacture of rum.

82. On my visit to the northern district last year, I saw several of these milpas. The cultivation appeared to be for the most part very carelessly conducted. On many of the properties the canes are allowed to ratoon year after year, with little care bestowed upon them beyond cutting down the rank growth of weeds with a cutlass. The following extract from some notes communicated to me by Mr. Cockburn, the Police Magistrate, after a visit to the northern district, will show both the fertility of the soil and the negligence of the cultivation :—"I have seen canes, planted when the first "plantations were opened up 5 to 6 years ago, still in a passably good condition, but "small, with short joints, and far inferior to some in the West India Islands, *their* worn-"out soil and exhausted condition, notwithstanding; and I was shown a field, said to be "25 years' ratoons, without manure of any sort, the canes of which, though very poor, "produced a fair quantum of sugar. As a rule the plants are not so luxuriant, and "the canes not so large and succulent as those of the southern district, but they appear "to contain more saccharine matter. I have been assured that fields planted at the "time of the Bacalar exodus, more than twenty years ago, have been ratooning ever "since, never replanted or manured, and very sparingly cleaned by cutting down the "brushwood with the macheat (cutlass). The hoe is seldom used except in planting,

"and the plough is unknown, perhaps not required." Mr. Cockburn, being a native of the Island of Grenada, and familiar with cane cultivation in the West Indies, is a competent judge in this case.

83. The cultivation of maize or Indian corn is chiefly for domestic consumption, corn-cakes, called "tortillas" being the principal food of the Spanish and Indian population.

84. The American immigrants who have lately settled here have found the growth of rice easy and profitable. Some of them contemplate the cultivation of sugar, but for the present they have been obliged to content themselves with clearing the forest and growing Indian corn and rice, yams, and other vegetables, for their own use. I enclose a very interesting account which I have received from Dr. Foster, a physician, one of the immigrants who settled at Toledo, whom I have nominated a Justice of the Peace. Dr. Foster says that the new clearings "yielded well, 20 to 30 bushels of corn per acre, "about the same quantity of rice, in four or five months from the time of planting." The new settlers suffered much from ants and other insects, which destroyed many of the young plants, but wherever they did not depredate, "the yield was very gratifying." Altogether, Dr. Foster's account of the young settlement is as favourable as could be expected, considering the hardships and difficulties and discouragements through which the settlers have had to struggle.

85. Although a number of accidents have retarded the progress which had been expected in the cultivation of sugar, and the actual yield has been considerably less than was anticipated, nothing has occurred to warrant any apprehension as to the final success of sugar cultivation. The experience of many years in the northern district, the crops at Sittee and Seven Hills, and the testimony of the American immigrants in the southern district, alike show that everywhere there is plenty of soil adapted to the growth of the cane, while the climate is (as might be inferred from the latitude) favourable to the production of every kind of tropical produce. The average mean height of the thermometer for the years 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868, was $79\frac{92}{100}$; and the average annual fall of rain for the same years was $74\frac{22}{100}$ inches. By the kindness of the Rev. Mr. Dowson, the Rector of St. John's, who has for some years kept a meteorological journal, I am enabled to annex the following abstracts of the monthly range of the thermometer and barometer, and the fall of rain for the four years 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868.

	1865.								
	Thermometer.				Barometer.				Rain.
	Mean Minimum.	Mean Maximum.	Lowest.	Highest.	Mean 10 A.M.	Mean 4 P.M.	Highest.	Lowest.	
									Inches.
January	71·67	77·11	65·75	84·50	30·03	29·95	30·24	29·72	4·65
February	74·05	79·53	59·75	82·50	29·99	29·90	30·25	29·72	0·34
March	76·98	81·73	70·00	90·00	30·00	29·91	30·14	29·75	2·10
April	78·22	82·10	72·00	83·50	30·02	29·93	30·19	29·84	0·16
May	79·01	84·45	74·50	86·00	29·95	29·86	30·11	29·74	0·99
June	80·45	84·21	75·00	86·50	29·98	29·90	30·03	29·83	5·46
July	78·64	83·36	73·00	84·50	30·03	29·95	30·08	29·87	16·24
August	79·82	85·28	76·00	88·25	29·98	29·90	30·05	29·77	8·95
September	79·71	85·15	75·00	87·00	29·91	29·82	30·00	29·64	7·54
October	76·08	83·14	71·00	87·00	29·93	29·84	30·04	29·63	15·53
November	71·99	80·10	65·00	84·00	30·05	29·97	30·16	29·84	6·06
December	76·15	81·22	69·50	82·75	30·05	29·96	30·17	29·83	5·57
			Lowest.	Highest.			Highest.	Lowest.	
For the Year 1865	76·89	82·28	59·75	90·00	29·99	29·90	30·25	29·63	73·59
	79·58								
	1866.								
January	70·12	77·37	60·75	83·50	30·16	30·07	30·37	29·98	6·63
February	73·73	79·47	66·00	81·75	30·13	30·04	30·30	29·84	5·54
March	75·00	79·82	67·25	82·25	30·10	30·01	30·25	29·89	0·85
April	77·53	81·75	69·00	84·00	30·02	29·94	30·12	29·83	2·67
May	80·21	84·48	77·25	87·00	29·93	29·85	30·06	29·71	0·33
June	80·28	84·40	75·50	87·75	29·99	29·92	30·09	29·83	7.59
July	80·46	84·66	75·75	85·75	30·01	29·94	30·10	29·87	7·09
August	80·34	84·48	74·50	86·00	30·02	29·94	30·09	29·80	5·96
September	79·96	85·08	75·00	86·50	30·02	29·93	30·08	29·88	5·87
October	75·61	83·27	73·75	86·00	30·00	29·92	30·10	29·83	13·65
November	72·87	80·65	65·50	84·50	30·06	29·98	30·16	29·84	4·40
December	73·23	79·93	65·00	81·75	30·09	30·01	30·21	29·92	7·59
			Lowest.	Highest.			Highest.	Lowest.	
For the Year 1866	76·61	82·11	60·75	87·75	30·04	29·96	30·37	29·71	68·17
	79·36								

BRITISH HONDURAS.

—	Thermometer. Mean Minimum.	Mean Maximum.	Lowest.	Highest.	Barometer. Mean 10 A.M.	Mean 4 P.M.	Highest.	Lowest.	Rain.
1867.									Inches.
January	73·87	80·18	65·00	84·00	30·07	29·99	30·20	29·70	6·53
February	75·13	80·22	59·00	82·25	30·10	30·02	30·29	29·84	3·43
March	79·10	83·02	74·25	87·25	30·00	29·91	30·12	29·75	·50
April	79·16	83·40	73·00	86·00	30·03	29·95	30·11	29·82	2·72
May	80·96	84·88	69·75	86·75	29·96	29·88	30·06	29·73	·28
June	80·68	85·52	76·50	87·25	29·95	29·88	30·08	29·73	11·70
July	80·82	84·61	76·00	85·75	30·03	29·96	30·12	29·88	8·07
August	81·85	86·02	78·75	88·00	30·01	29·93	30·12	29·85	5·83
September	80·87	85·30	75·25	87·25	29·98	29·89	30·06	29·76	9·81
October	78·05	83·58	74·75	87·50	30·00	29·91	30·11	29·82	19·32
November	73·11	80·54	66·50	83·75	30·11	30·02	30·21	29·88	10·94
December	74·73	79·70	71·75	81·25	30·12	30·03	30·20	29·88	14·82
For the Year 1867	78·19	83·08 (80·64)	Lowest. 59·00	Highest. 88·00	30·03	29·95	Highest. 30·29	Lowest. 29·70	93·95
1868.									
January	74·66	79·73	63·50	84·00	30·12	30·03	30·28	29·87	9·18
February	72·33	78·77	63·00	81·00	30·16	30·07	30·30	29·97	7·06
March	77·15	81·24	71·25	84·00	30·08	29·99	30·22	29·86	·38
April	78·85	83·10	71·50	85·50	30·05	29·97	30·14	29·80	2·79
May	80·68	85·30	71·50	92·00	29·99	29·91	30·10	29·72	·08
June	80·45	84·96	74·50	86·50	30·01	29·94	30·08	29·86	3·54
July	81·23	84·83	78·00	86·25	30·03	29·96	30·14	29·87	2·20
August	81·06	85·11	75·00	86·00	30·07	29·99	30·17	29·91	7·23
September	80·10	85·22	75·75	86·50	30·02	29·94	30·10	29·85	7·37
October	78·62	84·56	75·50	91·25	29·97	29·88	30·11	29·57	10·23
November	74·51	81·08	67·50	84·00	30·08	30·00	30·20	29·90	8·68
December	71·14	78·52	61·50	84·25	30·12	30·03	30·30	29·86	2·44
For the Year 1868	77·57	82·70 (80·13)	Lowest. 61·00	Highest. 92·00	30·06	29·98	Highest. 30·30	Lowest. 29·72	61·18

NOTE.—The observations were made at the Rectory in Belize, which is on the sea-level.

86. These tables show a greater range of temperature than is generally found at the sea-level in the West Indies, where the thermometer seldom falls as low as 59°, which is recorded in these tables.

87. The principal difficulty in the way of an extended growth of sugar on a large scale will probably be found to consist in the want of steady, intelligent, and reliable labour. In this respect the small remnant of the Chinese immigrants still working on the larger estates, about 193 in number, is a valuable addition to the native supply. In the northern district, the number of the population, which appears to be increasing both from natural causes and from the influx of Indians from Yucatan, will perhaps be found able to furnish a sufficient number of labourers capable of being trained into efficiency. In the southern district, the planters must either import their labour or employ the native Charibs. These so-called "Charibs," are a mixed race, said to be descended from the Mosquito Indians and African Negroes. They differ widely from the Maya Indians of Yucatan and Campêché, and their personal appearance strongly indicates a mixture of race.* The contractor of the New Honduras Inter-Oceanic Railway, Mr. McCandlish, told me that he had employed some of these people in cutting out the line of the railway, and that, when their ordinary food of fish and plantain was supplemented by an allowance of meat and other wholesome food, they proved sufficiently good labourers.

88. The ordinary rate of pay for labourers' wages is 8 to 10 dollars a-month, with rations, equivalent to about 2*s.* a-day. The pay of the Chinese labourers is 5 dollars a-month, but the employers have to pay besides two-thirds of the cost of their importation, and to furnish them with rations of a superior kind.

* In the Report of a Commission appointed in 1822 by Colonel Arthur, then Superintendent, to inquire into the petition of certain persons who claimed their freedom as native Indians, the striking difference between the Mosquito and other Indians is noticed; and it is said that there is "a current tradition, both among themselves "and their neighbours, viz. that a ship loaded with negro men from Africa was, at some very remote period, "wrecked upon the Mosquito shore; that those negroes revolted, seized upon the male inhabitants of the "sea-coast, and massacred them; and that by intermixing with the Indian females they have altered the race "and habits of that nation."

Grants of Land.

89. Very little land was sold in 1868. The American immigrants have settled on lands which they have purchased from Messrs. Young, Toledo, and Co., at rates below the present upset price of 10*s.* per acre for the Crown lands.

90. Most of the purchasers of Crown lands were squatters, who were anxious to secure the legal possession of the grounds which they had cleared, and upon which they had built their houses. The largest lot sold contained 100 acres. There was a lot of 50 acres, and another of 19 acres. The other grants, 13 in number, averaged less than three and a half acres each.

91. No families have yet been settled upon the lands at Icacos granted to Mr. Putnam and others by Lieutenant-Governor Austin in 1867; and it seems probable that that large grant will become forfeited in July next for non-fulfilment of its conditions.

Civil and Criminal Justice.

92. The sessions of the Supreme Court for the trial of all indictable offences committed in the Colony, are held four times a year in Belize. The Attorney-General acts as public prosecutor. The prisoners are tried by jury. No reports of the cases tried are furnished by the officers of the court, but I find on examination of the commitments entered in the gaoler's reports that 26 persons were convicted and sentenced by the court in 1868 to various periods of penal servitude or imprisonment for the following offences:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Manslaughter	1	—	1
Rape	1	—	1
Cutting and wounding	1	—	1
Unlawful wounding	1	—	1
Uttering forged warrant	1	2	3
Larceny	12	2	14
Feloniously receiving stolen goods	3	—	3
Perjury	2	—	2
Total	22	4	26

93. The population in 1861 was 25,635, and is now estimated to be between 29,000 and 30,000, so that the proportion of serious crime is about 1 to 1,150—a proportion which, considering the character of the population, cannot be deemed excessive.

94. Police and minor offences are dealt with summarily; in Belize and its neighbourhood by the police magistrate of Belize; in the northern district by the magistrate in Corosal, or by the additional magistrate at Orange Walk; and in the southern district by the magistrate for that district at the different places he visits.

95. From the returns of the police magistrate of Belize I have compiled the following abstract, showing the number and character of the petty offences dealt with in the year 1868. The population within his immediate jurisdiction may be assumed to be about 8,000. The punishments were fines or imprisonment for short periods not exceeding in any case three months:—

1.	Convicted of assault	97
2.	„ disorderly conduct	67
3.	„ using abusive language	46
4.	„ breach of the peace	16
5.	„ indecent conduct	13
6.	„ petty theft	12
7.	„ offence against the Gaol Act	12
8.	„ trespass	5
9.	„ discharging firearms in street	5
10.	„ furious riding or driving	4
11.	„ loitering in barracks	2
*12.	„ „ on Belize bridge	1
13.	„ having military stores in possession	1
14.	Policemen convicted of breach of police laws	7

* This is a special offence by Local Act.

15.	Convicted of being concealed in a shop	1
16.	„ neglecting to pay wages	7
17.	„ breach of revenue laws	7
18.	„ „ labour contract	7
19.	„ disobedience of orders	6
20.	„ neglect of duty	4
21.	„ using threatening language (held to find sureties)	5
22.	Cases dismissed, withdrawn, or compromised	132
23.	Offenders admonished and discharged	22
24.	Committed for trial at Supreme Court	11
25.	Transferred to magistrate at Corosal for adjudication	3
26.	Found to be a lunatic and committed to asylum	1
		494
27.	Under special statute, Volunteers fined for being absent from parade	8
	Total cases before magistrate in Belize	502

96. In the northern district, Mr. Adolphus, the magistrate at Corosal, states that "crime has unquestionably much decreased of late years," and that "felonies and mis-"demeanors are of much rarer occurrence." The population under his jurisdiction is about 8,000. He reports that he committed 18 persons for trial at the Supreme Court, of whom *six* were convicted. The rest nearly all belonged to a gang of Chinese, who were committed for a robbery in which they were all implicated. They were discharged in consequence of the original prosecutor, who was also the chief witness, having left the Colony before the trial.

97. Mr. Adolphus reports 461 summary convictions for the following offences:—

Under Town and Community Acts (breaches of good order and decorum)	162
Under Masters' and Servants' Acts	128
Assaults	75
Petty thefts	41
Under Police Act, 1866	13
Trespass on land, &c.	10
Escapes from custody	8
Trespass on personal property	7
Cruelty to animals	6
Retailing spirits without licence	5
Neglecting to pay taxes	3
Malicious injuries to property	2
Breach of revenue laws	1
Total	461

98. There is a general police force for the maintenance of public order. This force was authorized, by an Act passed in 1866, to consist of 2 serjeants, 6 corporals, and 36 privates. The force at present enrolled is distributed in the following manner. The head serjeant, 3 corporals, and 16 privates are stationed in Belize; 1 serjeant, 1 corporal, and 5 privates at Corosal; 1 corporal and 2 privates at Orange Walk; and 1 corporal and *five* privates in the southern district. The police are under the orders of the paid magistrates in the towns where they are stationed. They appear to be quite sufficient in numbers for the duties required of them. This force is entirely independent of the special corps raised for service on the frontier under the name of the "Frontier Police."

99. The total number of prisoners confined in Belize Gaol during the year 1868 was 191. Of these 39 were in gaol on the 1st of January, 1868; 26 were committed by the Supreme Court; 61 by the police magistrate; 27 were committed or remanded, but not subsequently imprisoned; 4 were debtors; 1 was committed for want of sureties; 1 was committed for safe custody, until he could be delivered to the authorities of Guatemala under the local Extradition Act to be tried for a murder committed in that republic; 23 were soldiers of the garrison, committed by courts-martial for military offences; and

9 were part of a band of Santa Cruz Indians, taken in armed aggression upon the Colony, and imprisoned by my orders until satisfactory explanations were received from the chiefs of the tribe to which they belonged.

100. The following table shows the nationality of the prisoners confined in Belize Gaol in 1868. It will be observed that less than one-fourth are natives of the Colony.

Natives of	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. British Honduras	33	12	45
2. The United Kingdom	3	0	3
3. Jamaica	25	0	25
4. Barbados	15	3	18
5. St. Vincent	2	0	2
6. Bahamas	2	0	2
7. Calcutta	2	0	2
8. British Guiana	1	0	1
9. Mexico	28	0	28
10. China	23	1	24
11. Spanish Honduras	19	0	19
12. Africa	12	3	15
13. Nicaragua	3	0	3
14. Guatemala	1	1	2
15. Italy	1	0	1
16. Norway	1	0	1
Total	171	20	191

101. For information respecting the state of the prisons of the Colony generally, and the classification, diet, discipline, and other particulars, I would ask leave to refer to the report I have recently had the honour to make in my Despatch, No. 39, of the 20th ultimo.

Report of Public Medical Officer, dated 1st Feb., 1869.

Public Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Public Health.

102. The institutions included in the Blue Book under the head of "Charitable Institutions" are the Public Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Poor House. These institutions are under the medical charge of Dr. Hunter, the Public Medical Officer, whose report upon them for the year 1868 I annex hereto.

103. The number of patients remaining in the Public Hospital at the close of 1867 was 13; during the year 1868, 245 were admitted, making a total of 258. Of these 20 died, 227 were discharged cured, and 11 remained in hospital on the 31st of December last.

104. There was an increase of 78 in the number of admissions last year. This increase is partly a consequence of the arrival of several vessels from Colon or Aspinwall, "whose "entire crews," says Dr. Hunter, "in some instances were completely prostrated by a "fever bearing a strong resemblance to our worst types of bilious remittent." As it is not unlikely that this virulent type of yellow fever may be carried to other Colonies by the same means, I beg to call particular attention to the following extract from Dr. Hunter's report :—

"*Febris Remittens.*—The unusual increase in the number of admissions for this disease "may be, in a great measure, attributed to the arrival of several vessels, ballasted with "tidal mud, from the shores of Aspinwall, among the crews of which this fever broke "out with great severity, shortly after their putting to sea; in some instances disabling "the vessel, and necessitating the master to put in to this port through sheer distress. "The account given by the masters of these vessels shows that, during their stay in "Aspinwall, the men were comparatively free from fever, but that shortly after putting "to sea, they began to be prostrated, one after another, until, in some cases, the whole "crew—men and officers—were rendered unfit for duty. On board the Prussian barque "'Major Von Saaft,' the fever commenced with slight attacks of ague, followed by fever "which increased in severity until it assumed the character of bilious remittent; and in "one man, who died on arrival in harbour, the symptoms were of the most pernicious "type, the post mortem appearances displaying complete disorganization of the blood. "In others, the crew suffered comparatively little from ardent fever, but all showed pal- "pable signs of great nervous depression. The fact has long been notorious in this

British Honduras.

" Colony, that vessels arriving from that port, have always suffered from a distinctive " fever, and a suspicion that the mud and sand taken from the shores there, as ballast, " was the origin of this fever, prompted our Board of Health, in 1866, to prevent its " being landed in town. Later experience has proved to me, beyond a doubt, that the " collection of this mud in the hold of a ship, and the exposure of the crew to the " noxious emanations, is decidedly dangerous; and in my capacity of Health Officer, I " have made it necessary for the masters of vessels arriving from Aspinwall, to discharge " the ballast and whitewash the ship, before they are allowed to come into harbour.

" The cases sent to hospital were of the most formidable nature, in consequence of the " extreme exhaustion from which they suffered, and it was only with the constant and " profuse administration of stimulants, that they were enabled to overcome disease. Of " the 64 cases treated, 5 died, showing a rate of 8 deaths in 100, and thus constituting " 25 per cent. of the total mortality of the hospital."

105. A somewhat similar instance is recorded in the enclosures to Mr. Cardwell's circular of the 31st December, 1864, in the case of a vessel ballasted with tidal mud from the harbour of Georgetown, Demerara.

106. In the Lunatic Asylum there were seven patients remaining on the 1st of January, most of whom were old and confirmed imbeciles who have been there for years. Four patients were admitted in 1868. One patient was discharged cured, and one was transferred to the hospital. Two others are said to be improving. There is much need of a new asylum.

107. In the Gaol Infirmary the medical officer reports the admission of 37 patients in 1868, of whom 36 were cured and discharged, and one, a debtor " who was in the last " stage of consumption when admitted," died.

108. A wave of Asiatic cholera passed over the Colony in the early part of 1868. The disease broke out suddenly with much virulence at Belize on the 15th of December, 1867, and continued to be epidemic until the end of January. In the country, and especially in the northern district, it continued its ravages until March. Some of the smaller villages, where there was no medical assistance, and where the habits of the people and, perhaps, local circumstances favoured the disease, suffered very severely. In Belize and the principal towns, where prompt medical aid was at hand, the mortality was happily not so extensive as might have been feared. The number of deaths in Belize was 161, in Corosal and the district round it, 135; in Orange Walk and the surrounding district, 111; in the southern district, 95. At Northern River, in the western district, and in the cays, the exact mortality is not known, but it is moderately computed at more than 100, making a total loss of more than 600 persons.

109. Since the cessation of the cholera the public health has been generally good. There have been a few fatal cases of yellow fever, one of the victims to which was Lieutenant Blacklin, of the 4th West India reigiment, but the disease happily did not become epidemic.

110. I enclose a brief report upon the general health of the northern district by the district medical officer, Dr. Galmé. He states the prevalent diseases to be " chronic " enlargement of the spleen," from which " there are few Indians who do not suffer " more or less," and diarrhœa. The former disease he attributes to poor diet, damp houses, and neglect; the latter, to drinking unwholesome water. Unfortunately, the water of the rivers in the northern district is undrinkable. The new river is brackish throughout the whole district; the water of the Hondo is of a green colour and very bitter; it was found to produce dysentery when used by the troops, and it brings on the same disease now among the frontier police, when they are obliged to use it. Even the wells are said, in Dr. Galmé's report, to be bitter, and the only water which is " fit " for drinking is rain-water," which in a dry season is often unattainable by many.

111. In accordance with the Colonial Regulations I enclose a copy of the report of the Surveyor on the state of repair of the Government House, which is included in his general report on the state of the public buildings. A copy of the inventory of the furniture in the house was annexed to the Blue Book for last year.

Concluding Remarks.

112. I enclose a copy of the report of Mr. Adolphus, the magistrate at Corosal, upon the district under his jurisdiction for the year 1868. The population of this district is about 8,000, mainly Spaniards who have immigrated from Yucatan, and Indians. There

are only a few Englishmen in the district, who are principally landowners, merchants, or connected with the larger estates.

113. This is the district in which the cultivation of the sugar-cane was first commenced and Mr. Adolphus gives a fairly satisfactory account of the progress which has been made. The produce last year increased to 533 tons of sugar and 30,460 gallons of rum. The acreage of land in actual cultivation Mr. Adolphus computes at "not less than "3,975 acres," of which 1,472 acres are in cane. A trade appears to be springing up between the people of Corosal and the Indians of Yucatan, and the Indian imports last year amounted in value to 3,659 dollars, chiefly cattle, horses, and tobacco.

114. The advantages of education begin to be appreciated by the people. The schools in the district are well attended. In the town of Corosal, besides a Roman Catholic and a Wesleyan school which receive grants in aid, there is a private school with upwards of 30 pupils.

115. Mr. Adolphus refers to the "difficulty" with the Santa Cruz Indians, which occurred at the beginning of the year, and states that "a more satisfactory and clearer "understanding than had ever before existed with these lawless people" has since been arrived at, which has restored confidence to the colonists.

116. The "difficulty" alluded to by Mr. Adolphus was caused by the conduct of the Indians, several armed bands of whom crossed the Hondo into the Colony about the end of 1867 and the beginning of 1868, and commenced to carry off a number of persons, most of them Indians by birth, who had migrated into this Colony to avoid the military service which they owed to their chiefs. A part of one of these bands, 13 in number, was captured, close to Corosal, by the troops who were sent in pursuit of them. The captured men were disarmed and brought to Belize, and imprisoned, by my order, until I obtained satisfaction from their chiefs. In all 78 persons were carried off by the different bands, nearly the whole of whom have been returned.

117. Since that time a good understanding has prevailed, and the Indians have, during the past year, visited Corosal in a friendly way for the purposes of trade. On one occasion as many as 200 came in a body to carry away some stores they had purchased, and behaved in a quiet and orderly manner.

118. During the earlier months of 1868 there were occasional rumours of intended aggressions by the Ycaiché Indians on the western frontier, and at one time these rumours appeared to be confirmed by the advance of a small body of Indians into the Colony, demanding, in the name of their chiefs, rent for lands which had, from the earliest times, been recognized as a part of the Colony. I brought these proceedings to the notice of the Ycaiché chief, Don Marcus Canul, by whom they were promptly disavowed. Since that time the personal conferences which have taken place between the principal Ycaiché chiefs and Captain Plumridge, the commander of the frontier police, together with other measures detailed in my Despatches on this subject, have, I trust, produced a better understanding generally with these tribes.

119. So long, however, as the contest continues on our border between the Indian tribes who assert their independence, and those who adhere to the Mexican Government, occasional misunderstandings may be expected to arise, and it will be necessary to pay a vigilant regard to our frontier, to preserve the absolute neutrality of this Colony, and prevent its infringement either from within or without.

I have, &c.,

Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Lieutenant-Governor.

NOTE.—*The Enclosures to the above Report are not printed.*

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President CAMPBELL, to Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, January 15, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1868, together with a brief report on the same.

2. The delay in the transmission of these returns has been caused by the abolition of the appointment of Auditor, whose duties included their preparation.

3. The accompanying copy of Correspondence between the Colonial Secretary,* and the Receiver-General and Treasurer, to which I beg to draw your Excellency's attention, shows clearly the impolicy of the abolishment of the situation of Auditor, which I certainly would have felt it my duty to have protested against had I been aware at the time of passing the Reduction of Expenditure Ordinance, that the duty of preparing the Blue Book returns devolved upon the holder of that appointment.

4. In my Despatch, No. 100, of November 12, 1869, I stated to your Excellency my intention to forward the Blue Book of 1868 with my report thereon direct to Downing Street. I have however deemed it unadvisable to do so by this mail, as I am not yet in possesion of the duplicate: it was only with the greatest difficulty that the original could be got ready in time for transmission by this mail; the short time thus allowed me for preparing my report, I trust will be accepted by your Excellency as a satisfactory explanation for its brevity.

I have, &c.,

Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL, President.

REPORT.

General Revenue.

The receipts of general revenue for the year 1867 may be classed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Imports	4,909	1	3
Exports (salt)	2,280	5	4
Ditto (dye woods)	25	2	1
Light dues	562	15	0
Miscellaneous	1,540	5	4
Showing a total of	£9,317	9	0

For the year 1868:—

	£	s.	d.
Imports	3,690	3	2
Exports (salt)	2,912	11	5
Ditto (dye woods)	6	5	0
Light dues	731	15	4
Miscellaneous	1,389	4	7
Making a total of	£8,729	19	6

and showing a decrease as compared with 1867 of 587*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* To the general revenue of 1868 may be added balance from 1867 amounting to 2,247*l.* 12*s.*, thus bringing up the total revenue for the year 1868 to the sum of 10,977*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

* This Correspondence is not printed.

General Expenditure.

The general expenditure for the year 1868 amounted to 10,314*l.* 13*s.*, thus leaving a balance in the public chest at the end of 1868 of 662*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; this balance, however, was not in actual cash, but existed in the shape of credit bonds. I have deemed it advisable to pass an Ordinance shortening to a considerable extent the period of credit allowed by these bonds, as the salaries of the public officers were frequently in arrear for months, owing to the former long credit system allowed by these bonds.

Value of Imports.

The total value of imports into this Colony for the year 1868 amounted to 40,778*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, against 52,121*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* for the year 1867, showing a decrease of 11,343*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

Value of Exports.

The value of exports from this Colony for 1868 amounted to 38,655*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, against 31,312*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* for 1867, showing an increase of 7,343*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

Import Duty.

The duty paid on goods imported into these islands for 1868 was 3,690*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against 4,909*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* for the year 1867, showing a deficit of 1,218*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* for the year 1868. This deficit can only be attributed to the fact of this market having been inundated last year with wrecked goods recovered from various vessels sunk in the harbour of St. Thomas in the cyclone of October, 1867, and which, as damaged goods, paid only a slight ad valorem duty. The probability of this falling off of the import duty was fully foreseen by my predecessor, and was brought by him under the notice of the Legislative Council; it was, moreover, chiefly on this account that he felt unwilling to reduce the export duty on salt, rightly calculating that a deficit in the general revenue would be the result, which deficit would eventually have to be made good. As far back as June, 1868, in a Despatch of that date, my predecessor, President Moir, expressed himself as follows:—"Large quantities of wrecked goods have also been introduced from St. Thomas "at the close of last, and the beginning of this, year, so that the importation of dry "goods will probably be limited for 1868." To prevent a repetition of such a severe loss to the general revenue, I have during the past session of the Council passed an Ordinance, by which all wrecked goods are valued by unprejudiced and competent persons, and pay a duty according to such valuation. This Ordinance has been sanctioned.

Export Duty.

The export duty on salt at a halfpenny per bushel for the year 1868 amounted to 2,912*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* on 1,398,034 bushels, against 2,280*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* for 1867 at the same rate on 1,094,528 bushels. By these figures it will be seen that the amount of salt exported for the year was considerably in excess of the year preceding, which shows that the fears of the salt pond proprietors were happily groundless, and that though the export duty continued at the same rate as for the four previous years, the demand for salt from these Islands continues undiminished. The only other export duty which brings in revenue to these Islands is that on dye woods, which in the year 1868 produced but 6*l.* 5*s.*, against 25*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* for 1867, showing a deficit under this item of 19*l.* 3*s.*

Crown Fund.

This fund consists chiefly of a 10 per cent. ad valorem duty on salt shipped from these Islands. The total amount of this fund for 1868 was 3,065*l.* 15*s.*, of which 2,912*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* was Crown duty on salt shipped, the balance, 153*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* resulted from rents and from sales of Crown lands and old stores, &c., &c. To this amount must be added balance of Crown fund from 1867, amounting to 461*l.* 12*s.*, making a total of 3,527*l.* 12*s.* The average revenue realized by this fund, taking the four years 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, amounts to 2,861*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, whereas, taking the years 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, during which period rent was paid by the lesses of the salt ponds to the Crown, it averaged 3,384*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, showing a decrease of 522*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* under the new tenure, by which amount the salt pond proprietors under the present system have benefited.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Expenditure of Crown Fund.

The amount expended from the Crown fund on works of public utility during the year 1868 was 3,065*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For the gaol at Grand Turk - - -	690	4	10
Gaolers' dwelling and debtors' prison -	312	16	5
Lighthouse—rebuilding of Keepers' dwelling, destroyed by hurricance of 1866 - -	99	18	4
Public schools - - - -	651	15	8
Public buildings - - - -	59	8	10
Roads, &c. - - - - -	240	13	5
Tanks and wells - - - - -	5	8	0
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,005	8	9
	£3,065	14	3

thus showing a balance of 461*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, which was carried forward in aid of the general revenue at the commencement of the year 1869.

Legislation.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Council during the session of 1868, thirteen of which received the Royal assent. The following are the titles thereof:—

No. 1. To amend Ordinance No. 2 of 1867, to establish a savings bank for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

No. 2. To amend Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, entitled "An Ordinance to amend "Ordinance No. 10 of 1852, for securing the public health."

No. 3. To amend Ordinance No. 3 of 1853, for the regulation of juries within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

No. 4. To amend Ordinance No. 9 of 1852, entitled "An Ordinance to consolidate "and amend the Laws relating to the Supreme Court of Justice."

No. 5. To repeal Ordinance No. 6 of 1867, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the "office of Coroner within these Islands, and to re-enact the same."

No. 6. To amend Ordinance No. 1 of 1867, entitled "An Ordinance to repeal "Ordinance No. 4 of 1853, and to make other provisions for the government of the "Public Schools of the Turks and Caicos Island."

No. 7. To amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1865 for granting superannuation allowances to persons having held civil offices in the public service of the Colony.

No. 8. To provide for the appropriation of divers sums of money to be paid from the Colonial Treasury for and towards defraying the contingent expenses of the Presidency of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1869.

No. 10. To provide for carrying out of capital punishment within prisons.

No. 11. To amend Ordinance No. 5 of 1865, entitled "The Fire Ordinance," 1865.

No. 12. For raising a revenue for the support of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

No. 13. To amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1849, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for "the collection of the Revenue," and Ordinance No. 12 of 1868, entitled "An Ordinance "for raising a Revenue for the support of the Government of the Turks and Caicos "Islands."

No. 14. To amend Ordinance No. 11 of 1849, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for "the maintenance and efficient regulation of a Lighthouse at Grand Turk."

Political Franchise.

The number of representatives returned by the electors of these Islands is four. The number of registered voters amounts to 292. By Ordinance 4 of 1863 all tax payers of the age of 21 who are able to read and write and possess in fee simple, fee tail, or for life of landed estate of the value of 10*l.*; or, a householder and inhabiting as sole tenant upon an improved lot of land of the value of not less than 40*l.*, are qualified to vote.

Civil Establishment.

There is no change to be recorded in the civil establishment of this Colony during the year 1868.

Population.

The population of these Islands according to the census of 1861 amounted to 2,128 males and 2,244 females. I believe, however, that the population at present exceeds 5,000. The Census Ordinance will be renewed this year.

Consuls.

The Consular department at these Islands for 1868 was represented by the United States Consul, Mr. Oliver Mungen, Mr. D. K. Hinson, Vice-Consul for Sweden and Norway, and Mr. J. Hutchings, recognized as Consular Agent for the Dominican Republic.

Ecclesiastical and Educational.

In both these departments there has been but little change in 1868, from the state of things existing in 1867. A vacancy occurred in the living at St. George's Caicos in May, 1868, which has only lately been filled up. As regards education in this Colony, I think some change may be desirable in the present system, but not having been resident in this Colony during the year 1868, I am unable, from personal observation, to constitute any reliable details under this head for that period. At present it appears to me the results are by no means commensurate with the large outlay, which amounted during the year 1868 to a trifle over 700*l.* Whether the changes lately effected will tend to improvement remains yet to be seen; the Members of the Board of Education are sanguine that they will do so. Should their expectations turn out fallacious, it will be useless to continue so large an expenditure.

Gaols and Prisons.

The new prison, commenced in February, 1867, has been completed and occupied during the year 1868. The total cost of this building amounted to 2,515*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* It contains 14 separate cells besides accommodation for first-class misdemeanants and debtors. The present system of "hard labour" is most unsatisfactory, and is not sufficiently severe to act as a deterrent. It is my intention to remedy this evil as soon as there are funds at my disposal. The following return, I regret to say, exhibits an increase of crime in this Colony.

Return of convictions for the undermentioned offences in the Police Court at Grand Turk for the years 1867 and 1868:—

	1867.	1868.
Assaults	40	38
Disturbance of the peace	47	53
Larceny	15	25
Obscene and profane language	5	17
Drunkenness	9	7
Abusive language	31	33
Malicious injury to property	2	6
Impeding constable in the execution of his duty	3	3
Allowing cattle to be at large	7	6
Gambling	3	9
Indecent exposure of person	2	2
Furious riding and driving in the public streets	0	4
Seamen refusing to proceed on voyage	1	0
Neglecting or refusing to maintain children	3	5
Cruelty to animals	4	6
Obtaining goods under false pretences	1	5
Breach of revenue laws	0	2

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

	1867.	1868.
Neglect of duty of constables - - - - -	5	1
Throwing stones and playing marbles in public streets -	0	4
Breach of Liquor Ordinance - - - - -	2	0
Obstructing highways - - - - - -	1	1
	181	227
Civil suits - - - - - - - -	69	83
Totals - - - - - -	250	310

Agriculture and Grants of Land.

At Grand Turk there is little or no agriculture, the land not being suitable for the purpose. The dry weather, moreover, though beneficial for the salt-raker, is destructive to any attempts at steady cultivation. At the Caicos the soil and weather is more favourable, but owing to the uncertainty of right and title to land, it is not pursued in as energetic a way as it might be. To ensure a better state of things and put a stop to the practice of squatters taking possession of Government lands, it is my intention to pass an Ordinance in some respects similar to that passed by the Legislature at St. Kitts, entitled "An Act for the settlement of claims to land in the Island of Anguilla," necessarily modifying it in such a way as to meet the state of affairs existing in this Colony. I may here mention the tea plant seems to be indigenous, as it is found growing in great profusion all over this Island. Though the soil and absence of moisture is against this plant attaining its utmost perfection in this Colony, I feel persuaded it might be profitably cultivated in many of our West Indian possessions. The attention of planters might be most advantageously directed to the development of this new source of profit. Stramonium, castor oil, and indigo are also found here. I am induced to believe the latter plant was formerly extensively cultivated in some of the West Indian Islands. At Anguilla, a dependency of the island of St. Christopher, are even now to be seen rock-hewn tanks or vats in which, according to local tradition, the Caribs are stated to have prepared the indigo dye. The cultivation and utilization of this plant seems hitherto to have been entirely neglected in these Islands.

General Remarks.

I fear I cannot report very hopefully on the general state of this Colony, and I have reason to believe the present depression will continue for some years to come. These Islands have not as yet fully recovered from the disastrous effects of the hurricane of 1866, which inflicted such severe injury to the different salinas, filling them with sand and débris. Some of the salinas are, moreover, rendered less productive than heretofore by the spread of disease in the salt pond reservoirs, which hinders the formation of the salt crystals. This is especially the case at Salt Cay, and unless decided and immediate steps be taken to remedy this, the evil will increase to the detriment of the salt pond proprietors and both Crown and General Revenue. The salt pond proprietors at Salt Cay are at present in too straightened circumstances, owing to the damage inflicted by the late hurricane to every sort of property on that Island, to be enabled to drain and thoroughly cleanse the main reservoir of their salina, as well as to erect an embankment for the purpose of preventing the wash from the land after heavy rains, mingling with and rendering foul the brine, on the purity of which the quality and quantity of the salt entirely depends. Unless the salt pond proprietors can negotiate a loan sufficient in amount to carry out the required improvements, the present unsatisfactory and depressed state of affairs must continue at Salt Cay, detrimental alike to all interests.

I am of opinion that it will be most desirable to form a reserve fund to meet any unforeseen contingencies such as that I have above alluded to, or a wet season, whereby the salt crop might be diminished or destroyed, a slackness in the demand for salt, owing to the heavy import duty in the United States, or a repetition of a hurricane of which we have lately had such sad experience. It is not here, as in other Colonies, where the land may be made available for various productions, and in the event of any one special product failing, or the demand for it slackening, attention may be turned to other kinds of cultivation which may replace that which no longer is available. In this Colony

salt is the sole staple, and in the event of that failing, the Colony must sink into debt or bankruptcy unless there be a reserve fund available towards carrying on the Government till a more auspicious period arrives.

The present almost prohibitory duty on salt in America has, moreover, tended to hinder the development of fresh salinas; should that duty be lessened or removed I have no doubt this Colony would be found a remunerative field for the employment of capital, either English or American, the latter most probably, as we are now brought into closer contact with American influence, owing to the United States Government having lately occupied Samana, to which place this Island is the nearest British Colony, and of which, strategically speaking, it might be made the key.

Turks Islands possesses many advantages, both from its geographical position and proverbial healthiness of climate. It has also capabilities as yet undeveloped. I allude to the possibility of converting a large sheet of water, existing at Grand Turk, called the Northern Creek, into a harbour of refuge. I have reason to believe this place was surveyed in 1849, by Commander De Courcey, R. N., acting under orders from the Earl of Dundonald. I have never seen any report of this survey. Should necessity ever arise for so utilizing this expanse of water, convict labour might be most effectively employed, and the Crown Funds might with the utmost advantage to these Islands and to Imperial purposes be applied to the maintenance of a certain number of convicts.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL,
President.

Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SCOTT to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 101.)

MY LORD, Government House, Georgetown, July 22, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of British Guiana for the past year, 1868, which I have recently received from the office of the Government Secretary.

The statistical returns contained in this book refer to a period prior to my assumption of the Government, and I am not, therefore, in a position to furnish with it the usual report on the past and present condition of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. SCOTT.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

BAHAMAS.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JAMES WALKER, K.C.M.G.,
to The Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No 206.)

MY LORD, Government House, Nassau, September 10, 1869.

I PROCEED to make the report which should have accompanied the Blue Book of the Bahamas for 1868.

BAHAMAS.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. There was no alteration during the year in the tariff which, as compared with other places in the West Indies, and bearing in mind that it forms almost the entire taxation of the Islands, is not an immoderate one. It was passed in 1868, for twelve months, but has since been renewed and continued for ten years.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the Colony for 1868 was 40,777*l.*; the expenditure, 68,306*l.*

4. The years immediately preceding 1868 were exceptional years, affected by the civil war in America, the hurricane of October, 1866, and other circumstances. It may not be amiss, however, to exhibit the revenue and expenditure for the three years preceding the war, and the three years subsequent to it, ending 31st December, 1868.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1859 - -	37,116	34,870
1860 - -	37,017	36,875
1861 - -	40,456	49,959
1866 - -	52,205	77,718
1867 - -	47,908	80,372
1868 - -	40,777	68,306

5. From the above statement your Lordship will see that the revenue is steadily declining, and I am sorry to say that the receipts for the first eight months of this year give me no hope of being able to make a more favourable report at its close.

6. The large excess of expenditure during the years 1866, 1867, and 1868, must in some measure be attributed to the increase in the number and salaries of the public officers, but principally to the grants for public works, the new prison alone costing close on 20,000*l.*

Debt.

7. To provide for this excess, it became necessary to issue treasury debentures bearing interest from 4¾ to 6 per cent. The first of these were issued on the 9th of January, 1867, and they amounted at the close of 1868 to 51,137*l.* This sum, however, does not represent the actual public debt of the Colony. The widow's and orphan's fund which was created in 1845, by a percentage deduction from all salaries over 50*l.* per annum, and which amounted on the 31st of December, 1868, to 15,946*l.*, exists only in the books of the Treasury, the whole of the deductions having been annually expended with the general revenue. As a consequence, the payment of the pensioners, most of whom are in indigent circumstances, is in serious arrear.

Legislation.

8. The legislation of 1868 was of an unimportant character. There were two sessions during the year, and they were consumed chiefly in abortive attempts to pass a Retrenchment Bill, and a Bill for the disendowment of the Anglican clergy.

9. The principal Acts passed were :—

31 Vict. cap. 4, which amends the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Cap. 5, which transfers the duties of the Board of Works from the Governor and Executive Council to a Legislative Committee.

Cap. 6, Repeals the office of Assistant Police Magistrate in Nassau.

32 Vict. cap. 2, continues the import duties for a year.

Cap. 5, Indemnifies the Government for supporting the Prison and Asylum without a legislative appropriation.

Cap. 7, appropriates 7,791*l.* to public services.

Cap. 8, sanctions the sale of the Royal Victoria Hotel on condition of its being preserved as a hotel.

Cap. 9, effects a considerable reduction in the police force of the Colony.

Cap. 12, reduces the Governor's colonial salary to its original sum, 800*l.*

COUNCILS.

Assembly and Franchise.

10. In the constitution of the Councils there was little change during the year, but the agitation of the question of abolishing the Church establishment led to a dissolution of the Assembly, which resulted in the election of a new House, the majority of whom were pledged to the disendowment of the clergy.

11. The numbers who exercised the franchise at this election were 4,161, as compared with 1,897 at the previous election.

Civil Establishment.

12. In the civil establishment of the Island there was little change during the year. The retirement of Doctor Lempriere led to the appointment of another Colonial Secretary, who did not arrive, however, till the commencement of this year; but amid many projects for change and reduction, the establishment itself remained untouched. Considerable alterations have since taken place, chiefly in the way of consolidation of office, and the disordered state of the public finances must lead to further and more serious reductions. But these will no doubt occupy a conspicuous place in the report for 1869. At the same time will come to be noted a proposal which, after having agitated the community to its very core during the whole of the preceding year, has now been effected for abolishing the payment of the clergy from the public funds, although the operation of the measure has been by compromise suspended for a period of seven years.

Population.

13. The deaths in 1868 were 718, and the births 1,469 as to 739 and 1,202 in 1867, showing a gradual decrease in the mortality of the Islands for the last three or four years, and a larger number of births for 1868 than have been registered in any one year of which I have the returns before me.

14. During the past year the Islands have been free from epidemic disease. Fully one-third of the deaths are reported to be of children under five years of age, and about 20 per cent. are classed under the head of diseases of the lungs and heart. It is indeed melancholy to see the way in which the black and coloured people are carried off by consumption. The violent changes of temperature, and the cold winds which prevail at the beginning and end of the year are very fatal to the negro race. Even at the moment that I write, there is in hospital a ninth part of the garrison, which is composed exclusively of black troops.

15. The sanitary condition of the town of Nassau is upon the whole creditable, but that of Grant's Town, where the mass of the poorer people reside, is far from satisfactory. It is choked by rank vegetation, the drainage is imperfect, and the tenements overcrowded. It would be one of the first duties of the Government, whenever the smallest means are available, to endeavour to improve the state of this district.

Education.

16. The Board of Education reports that the average attendance for the past year was greater than that of any preceding year, and on the whole the schools under their direction are reported to be more efficient than at any former period.

17. The following table shows the increase of the number of children on the books; the number present at the examination; also the average attendance for the past three years :—

Date.	No. of Schools.	No. on the Books.	No. present at Examination.	Average Attendance.
1865	30	2,047	1,016	1,004
1866	37	2,877	1,528	1,715
1868	39	3,032	2,011	2,014

18. It will be seen from this table that the number present at the examination in 1865 was only 1,016, and that the average attendance was 1,004; while in 1868 the number present at the examination (making no allowance for half-a-dozen schools not examined) had increased to 2,011, and the average attendance to 2,014. This is an increase of 100 per cent. for the three years.

BAHAMAS.

19. The amounts voted for educational purposes during these three years were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1865 - - -	3,734	18	7
1866 - - -	3,972	2	1
1868 - - -	3,272	4	10

These amounts do not include the following grants for building shool-houses, viz. 1,000*l.* for the boys' central, 800*l.* for the girls' and infants' western, 300*l.* for Harbour Island, and 650*l.* for Abaco; and without making any allowances for these expenses, the averagecost per child amounted to no less than

£	s.	d.						
3	14	2	-	-	in	-	-	1865
2	5	3	-	-	in	-	-	1866
1	12	1	-	-	in	-	-	1868

20. There can be no question but that these amounts are far too high, especially those of 1865 and 1866, but by the Retrenchment Act which has just passed, the entire grant for educational purposes will be reduced from 3,900*l.* in 1866 to 2,400*l.* in 1869; and assuming that the average attendance will not be less this year than it was last, the cost per child will be reduced to about 1*l.* 1*s.*, or more than 300 per cent. less than it was in 1865.

21. This Act will necessitate the closing of two or three small and unimportant schools, and the reducing of some of the salaries to what they were prior to the "Education Act" of 1864, but the Board of Education hope that the sum voted will be sufficient.

22. In the case of Inagua, the Board has decided to increase the salary to 100*l.* per annum with school fees, and have sent to England for a trained teacher.

23. For many years past the want of a good general training school has been the greatest defect in the educational system of this Colony.

Imports and Exports.

24. The value of the imports and exports for the last three years was as follows:—

Date.	Imports.	Exports.	
		Native Produce.	Other Exports.
	£	£	£
1866	328,622	77,604	184,372
1867	365,316	71,117	156,131
1868	231,526	80,146	51,376

25. The value of imports for 1868, is about 36½ per cent. less than in 1867, and is owing to the falling off in the number of wrecks, and consequent decrease in the importations resulting therefrom, the value of one article alone of such importations (raw cotton) heving fallen from 53,351*l.* in 1867, to 353*l.* in 1868.

26. The native produce exported during the year 1868, shows an increase as compared with 1867 of about 11½ per cent., and is chiefly in the articles of fruit and sponge, but a decrease of 100,000*l.*, the result of the falling off of wreck importations has taken place in the value of other exports.

Wrecks.

27. The return of casualties to shipping during 1868 shows a very considerable diminution of wrecks as compared with preceding years.

28. The numbers for the preceding five years stand thus:—

	Wrecks.	Casualties, such as loss of sails &c.
1864 - -	48	19
1865 - -	30	31
1866 - -	63	31
1867 - -	29	21
1868 - -	17	30

29. In continuation of a return made in the report for 1867, I present the following statement of the number of vessels and men licensed for wrecking:—

	1867.			1868.		
	No.	Tonnage.	Men.	No.	Tonnage.	Men.
New Providence - -	87	2,240	644	65	1,438	271
Abaco - - -	15	282	136	18	362	406
Eleuthera - - -	—	—	2	—	—	—
Harbour Island - -	14	475	139	—	—	1
Long Island - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Cay - -	3	100	85	3	45	144
Inagua - - -	1	25	43	1	35	14
Total - -	120	3,122	1,049	87	1,880	836

30. This return shows how rapidly the occupation of wrecking is departing. The people of Harbour Island, at one time the great stronghold of the wreckers, have all gone in for the pine cultivation.

Land and Agriculture.

31. Under this head the Commissioner of Crown Lands makes the following report:—

"In 1868 the number of grants issued from the Surveyor General's Office, were in advance of 1867. The number issued in 1867 was 134, in 1868, 161. The area being in 1867, 923½ acres, in 1868, 1,322¾.

"The larger portion of the grants issued in 1867 and in 1868, was for lands sold some years back, and for lots in townships laid out by the Land Board under the administration of Sir Wm. Colebrooke, during the years from 1836 to 1839, and for which payments were not completed till 1866, when, with the approval of the Secretary of State, Governor Rawson sanctioned grants being issued on the payment of the balance due at the original rate of purchase.

"In 1867 there were applied for and sold at public auction 647 acres of land; in 1868 but 323.

"I can only account for this falling off in the sales to the fact that in 1868 no deputies were sent to the out islands to disturb the squatter in his unlawful occupancy, and to compel him to come in and buy. I am strengthened in this opinion by the fact that a large portion of the number of applicants in 1867 was the result of the visit of a deputy to Andros; and also of the 1,377 acres applied for up to June of the present year, about 1,044 are the result of the visit of a deputy to St. Salvador.

"The cultivation of the cotton has been abandoned in all of the islands but Long Island and Exuma, and even in these two it is cultivated to but a limited extent.

"The frequent droughts, subsequent to 1866, the bugs, and the low price offered for the cotton, may be said to have led to the abandonment of its cultivation.

"Governor Rawson's anticipations with reference to the increased demand for pine-apples seem to have been realized, for in 1867 the value of the pines exported to England and America was, 14,750*l.* In 1868 it rose to 22,776*l.*

"So likewise with oranges. The value of oranges exported in 1867 was 1,077*l.*; in 1868, 2,776*l.*

"The fruit trade seems therefore to be recovering from the shock of 1866, and judging from the favourable seasons of the present year, it may not be over sanguine to anticipate a still larger increase in 1869.

"The substitution of a royalty on all salt shipped for a fixed annual rental, seems to have given satisfaction, and served to stimulate an increased cultivation. The former lessees of the Rum Cay pond, who had abandoned their allotments under the heavy burden of arrears of rent, and of the prospect of still adding to those arrears had they continued, have resumed with heart their cultivations, and many of those at Inagua, who were almost paralyzed by their arrears, have renewed their exertions to render profitable the labour of past years, while new proprietors have been added to the list."

Monetary.

32. The receipts and payments of the public bank show a considerable decrease of business. In 1867 the receipts were 778,110*l.*, the payments, 829,125*l.*; in 1868 the receipts were 541,301*l.*, the payments, 561,569*l.*

BAHAMAS.

33. The specie on hand on the 31st of December 1867 and 1868 was as follows:—

	1867.			1868.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gold, British	3,900	0	0	1,859	0	0
„ American	2,919	7	6	1,604	3	4
„ Spanish	7,148	4	6	4,441	16	4
Silver, British and American	20,504	8	11	16,890	16	10
Total	£34,472	0	11	£24,795	17	6

Crime and Pauperism.

34. The return of prisoners tried by the Superior Court in 1868 shows a decrease upon the two previous years:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
Convicted	46	45	37
Acquitted	15	18	13

35. The Police Magistrate for Nassau makes the following report for the year:—

"The number of convictions in the police court have decreased since 1867. In 1868 the convictions were:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
402	290	692

"The causes of this decrease (524) as compared with the numbers in 1867, viz. 1,216, is attributable chiefly to the poverty of the people.

"Whenever they could pay a moderate fine, they little cared for the consequences of a licentious and improvident life.

"The dancing saloons in Grant's Town are all closed, because they cannot be supported, and the fear of imprisonment under the separate and silent system is a powerful deterrent."

36. About the same sum was expended as in preceding years for the maintenance of the poor, the figures being:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£	£	£
In New Providence	2,106	1,931	1,901
The Out Islands	552	636	500
Total	£2,658	£2,567	£2,401

Post Office.

37. The contract for the conveyance of mails has been performed by the Atlantic Steam-ship Company with great regularity. The expense it is true has been considerable, and complaints are made of the want of facilities in embarking passengers and freight. But the truth is that no vessel adapted for buffeting with the weather so often to be met with on the North American coast, and of affording the necessary accomodation, can cross the bar of Nassau Harbour without danger, and that the choice must lie between the inconveniences of embarking on the open sea outside, and the employment of inferior vessels.

38. The Post Office revenue in 1868 was 790*l.*, as to 625*l.* in 1867.

General.

39. The general condition of the Colony is far from satisfactory. Whatever prosperity it formerly enjoyed was due almost entirely to wrecks. It was the property stranded on these islands, either through misfortune or villany, which for a great number of years constituted the chief support of the people and the Government. But, with the use of steam, the erection of excellent lighthouses, the increased intelligence of the master mariners, and the eye of authority on their proceedings, wrecks are now comparatively of rare occurrence, and among them is the absence of ships with valuable cargoes. Numbers of schooners, formerly well manned and kept at sea on the banks, are now

rotting in harbour, and many of the crews are without employment. There is no agriculture, no manufacture, no commerce to fall back on: nothing but the precarious cultivation of the pine-apple and the unremunerative pursuit of sponge-gathering.

This decrease in the number of wrecks is not of yesterday's date. It commenced some years ago, when, just as the inhabitants began to feel the pinch, the civil war in America broke out, and afforded opportunities in these islands for a large contraband trade with the belligerents. The evil day was only procrastinated. Of the money which poured into the Colony at that time there is little left, and distress is becoming every day more apparent.

What is to be done towards repairing the disordered state of the public finances, and rousing and diverting into some profitable channel the industry of a people whose seafaring and heedless habits have unfitted them for steady and continuous labour, are questions which will have to be answered and chronicled in the report for 1869.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAS. WALKER.

TRINIDAD.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. A. H. GORDON, C.M.G., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 170.)

MY LORD, Trinidad, December 31, 1869.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868.

Taxes and Duties.

The taxes and duties levied in 1868 were the same as those of 1867, and therefore it is needless for me to make any remarks under this head.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross revenue of the year was 214,484*l.*, showing a decrease on the previous year of 1,328*l.* The chief items of decrease were imports and immigration amounting, on the latter head to upwards of 7,700*l.*

The gross expenditure for the year was 199,112*l.*, or 15,602*l.* less than that of the previous year. The chief items of decrease are hospitals, police and gaols, works and buildings, and immigration.

Public Debt.

By payments made in 1868 the public debt of the Colony was reduced by 27,255*l.*, leaving its amount at the close of that year at 130,130*l.*

Legislation.

Several Ordinances of some importance were passed in 1868. Of these the principal were the Ordinances Nos. 5 and 6, by which the jurisdiction of the Stipendiary Justices was considerably extended, the offences summarily punishable by them revised and brought together, and the mode of procedure before them simplified and regulated. No. 7. by which the Police Force was reorganized on a new system. No. 8, for the appointment of Coroners. No. 14, for the abolition of the Leper Asylum as a separate establishment. Nos. 28 and 29 for the regulation of buildings in Port of Spain, and raising money for its improvement.

The Ordinances No. 24 and No. 25, with respect to the administration of the Crown

TRINIDAD. lands, were passed in my absence from the Colony, and were not assented to by me on my return—a course approved by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Works and Buildings.

The only important work on which the Government has been engaged during the year is the improvement of the wharf of Port of Spain.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports for the year was 927,769*l.*, or an increase of 68,923*l.* over 1867, and 49,412*l.* over 1866. The value of exports was 1,116,198*l.*, or an increase of 29,297*l.* over 1867, and 93,860*l.* over 1866.

Shipping.

The return of shipping for 1868 is nearly the same as that for 1867. The amount of tonnage entered being less than in the previous year, and the amount cleared being more than in 1867.

	Entered.	Cleared.
1867 - -	148,297	- - 133,349
1868 - -	140,697	- - 143,535

Gaols.

The number of prisoners confined in the Royal Gaol at Michaelmas, 1868, was 468, and the total number committed during the whole year was 2,840. The largest number in confinement at any one time was 524. Although the prisoners are all committed nominally to the Royal Gaol, large numbers are sent to the convict depôts established in the Island, where they are employed in making roads, cutting and hauling timber, and other similar work.

Of the total of 2,840 prisoners committed during the year, 1,222 were Indian and 375 Chinese immigrants, and 469 natives of the Island. The remaining 774 were chiefly natives of the other West India Colonies. Of the immigrants, a very large proportion were imprisoned for being absent from work without leave, and for breach of contract.

Charitable Institutions.

The number of patients in the hospital of Port of Spain on the 31st December, 1868, was 198, and in the San Fernando Hospital on the same date, 88. There is not much difference between these returns and those of the previous year. But there is an immense increase in the number of out-patients treated at the hospital in Port of Spain, the number being 4,884 in 1868, against 191 in 1867.

Leprosy, I am sorry to say, appears to gain ground, as 42 patients were admitted into the Asylum in 1868, whereas they were only 26 admissions in 1867. But this may in some way be accounted for by the fact that the condition of the Asylum has been wonderfully improved since the employment in that institution of the Sisters of Mercy, and that patients are no longer afraid to enter an asylum where now they are well treated and cared for, but where they formerly experienced the most cruel neglect.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Rawson, C.B., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 999.)

My Lord, Windward Islands, Barbados, November 27, 1869.

I have the honour to submit a copy of the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1868, with my Report thereon. Your Lordship is aware of the circumstances which have delayed the transmission of the former. I regret to have occasion to report that I am unable to invite confidence for the returns of imports, exports, and shipping for the present year, while it has become apparent that those for previous years are wholly unreliable. I could not, with the means at my command, obtain amended returns for 1868, without interfering too seriously with the preparation of those for the current year. The recent change in the office of Comptroller of Customs, and the knowledge which the present officer will have had an opportunity of acquiring by his visit to England, will, I trust, ensure correct and complete returns in future years. It is, however, much to be regretted, that the means of establishing a reliable comparison with the returns for previous years are irretrievably lost.

2. The credit of discovering the defects in the returns, and of persistently urging the adoption of measures to amend them, is due to the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Gore. That of investigating and exposing the cause of the defects, and the fallacy of the explanations offered by the responsible officer, is due to the Auditor, Mr. Griffith, who, at the request of the late Administrator and myself, made two laborious inquiries, and two voluminous reports upon the subject.

3. As I did not assume this Government until April, 1869, your Lordship will not expect from me any detailed report upon the transactions of 1868. But I will advert to those which appear deserving of notice.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

4. The only changes made in the source of revenue during the year were the imposition of 20 per cent. upon all duties of customs, exclusive of those on tonnage, from the 1st April, 1868, for the purpose of creating a fund for the erection of public buildings, and the repeal of the militia tax, of 1*s.* per acre on land, and 3*d.* in the pound on the rental of houses, imposed by the Act No. 16 of 1866.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The total revenue of the Colony was 105,545*l.*, that of 1867 was 98,347*l.*, showing an increase of 7,198*l.* Of this 6,240*l.* was owing to the additional customs duty noticed in the last paragraph. On the other hand, the militia tax yielded 5,258*l.* less.

6. The customs, after deducting the proceeds of the additional duty, yielded an increase of 958*l.*, or about the same as in 1867. The other sources of revenue, excepting the militia tax, repealed, and licences for the sale of liquor, exhibited an increase.

7. The actual expenditure of 1868, after deducting 6,024*l.* invested as belonging to the public buildings fund, was 93,346*l.*, comparing advantageously with 99,783*l.* in 1867. Part, however, of this decrease, to the extent of 2,248*l.*, was owing to the cessation of the works under the management of the Molehead department, and part to the absence of any payments on account of the City Improvement Commissioners, which amounted in 1867 to 3,202*l.* Allowing for these two special items, the advantage of 1868 over 1867 is reduced to 987*l.*

Local Revenue.

8. The returns of parochial revenues and expenditure exhibit little variation; an increase in some of the country parishes; in St. Michael's, which includes Bridgetown, a decrease of nearly 10 per cent.

Public Debt.

9. The Colony continues to be free from debt. A few small sums are owing to it, in repayment of loans made to vestries and local corporations. The balance in the

BARBADOS. Treasurer's hands at the close of 1868 was 20,180*l.*, of which 3,194*l.* belonged to the public buildings fund, above explained; of the balance, 16,986*l.* was deposited in the Colonial Bank.

Military Expenditure.

10. The expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government on account of the military establishment in Barbados was 92,184*l.* in 1867, and 87,428*l.* in 1868. The Colonial expenditure on account of the militia in the same years was 3,021*l.* and 4,073*l.* respectively, showing an increase of 1,051*l.*

Public Works.

11. Referring to past Blue Books, it appears that in October, 1867, the late Superintendent of Public Works suddenly resigned, and the returns for that year are incomplete. The office was not filled up in 1868. In 1867 the recorded expenditure on account of public works, under the direction of the Molehead department was 3,362*l.*; in 1868, 1,114*l.*, being chiefly, if not wholly, arrears of the preceding year.

Legislation.

12. The principal Acts passed in the year 1868 were:—

1. To assimilate the criminal laws of the Colony to those of England.
2. To continue in force the Public Health Acts of 1851–65.
3. To impose an addititional duty of 20 per cent. on all existing customs duties, for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of public buildings in Bridgetown.
4. To amend the law of Escheat.
5. To remit the militia tax for the year 1868.
6. To repeal the Act of 1866 for organizing a militia force.
7. To establish a hospital for the better prevention of contagious diseases.
8. To amend the Post Office laws.
9. To maintain in force to 1st March, 1869, the Acts relating to the police force.
10. To incorporate the Commercial Hall Society in Bridgetown.
11. To authorize the purchase of a site for a new lunatic asylum.
12. To maintain in force the trade (tariff) Acts till 31st December, 1869.

Political Franchise.

13. At the annual election of members for the House of Assembly, a contest took place in two districts. In one, 77 electors voted, and 32 in the other. The population of the respective districts was, in 1861, 13,339 and 7,263.

Councils and Assembly.

14. There was no change in the Legislative and Executive Council, and only two changes in the Assembly.

Population.

15. In comparing the abstract of baptisms, marriages, and burials, there appears to have been a great increase in all three in 1868.

	1867.	1868.
Baptisms - - -	6,101	7,395
Marriages - - -	497	746
Burials - - -	2,857	4,987

The population of the Island may be estimated at 170,000.

I hesitate, without careful inquiry which would involve delay, to express an opinion upon the above figures, exhibiting, as they do, such remarkable differences in the two years. (See postscript.)

Education.

16. The only change which has taken place during the year in connection with the public schools for the poor, is the extension of the premium examination plan to the infant schools, in consequence of the success which has attended its experimental application to the primary schools in the two preceding years. Under this plan the grant to an infant-school mistress, from the education committee, consists of two parts, the first a capitation allowance, on the average attendance, of a halfpenny a week per child, which,

in a school of 50 children, would realize about 5*l.* the year; the other part of the grant consists of premiums for the attainments of the children in the various subjects taught, ascertained by an annual examination by the Inspector. Judging by the first examinations of the kind, held in the latter part of the year now reported, the premium portion of the grant will hardly exceed that given as capitation money; but with the improved teaching which, it is believed, the new system will encourage, the premiums ought in any school to be double the capitation allowance. The mistresses in these schools receive also commonly fees and apartments, and in some parishes a stipend is also received from the vestry.

17. The demands of the public schools on the funds at the disposal of the education committee being now variable with the attendance and efficiency, the facts that towards the end of the year a supplemental vote by the Legislature became necessary, and was cheerfully acquiesced in, lead to the conclusion that the work of educating the people is going on prosperously, and that the best wishes of the governing classes attend its progress. The condition to which the Colony has now arrived in this matter suggests, and even demands, that some considerable effort should be made for the better education of the classes socially above those which have hitherto in this respect monopolized the pecuniary aid of the Legislature.

Trade and Shipping.

18. It is doubtful whether any inference can be safely drawn from the past returns of trade. The shipping returns are wholly unreliable. According to the returns there was a considerable increase in 1868 in the value of imports, a small increase in that of exports, viz.:—

	1867.	1868.
Imports - -	989,503	1,134,257
Exports - -	1,245,501	1,269,674

The export of sugar, which is probably correctly stated, shows an increase, viz., 57,150 hogsheads against 53,398 in 1867. The United States took 6,124 hogsheads instead of 1,331 in 1867.

Gaols and Crime.

19. The returns show an increase of about 8 per cent. in the number of committals.

General Remarks.

20. The year 1868 opened with a fair promise, and a large crop of sugar was made. But in the latter part of the year a protracted drought set in, which threatened injury—eventually too fully realized—to the crop of 1868–9. The differences between the two Legislative Chambers continued. Mr. Walker was transferred to another Government; Major Mundy, the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, succeeded him as temporary Administrator. His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Secretary of State for the Colonies, contemplated changes in the existing arrangements for the Government of Barbados and the Windward Islands; but having retired with his colleagues from office, his proposals have remained in abeyance. The year closed with gloomy anticipations of a short crop, and consequent want of employment for a rapidly increasing population.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

10th December.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have obtained a correction of the returns of baptisms, marriages, and burials in 1868, which reduces greatly, and brings within credible proportions, the differences between the two years. The necessary amendment has been made in the Blue Book.

The comparison stands as follows:—

	1867.	1868.
Baptisms - - -	6,101	6,563
Marriages - - -	497	637
Deaths - - -	2,857	3,924

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Governor BERKELEY to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 621.)

SIR, Government House, St. Vincent, June 24, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868, with the following report thereon :—

Taxes.

2. No material alteration has occurred in the system of taxation previously existing, the principal portion of the Revenue continuing to be derived from import duties, tonnage dues, export tax, excise duty on rum, and liquor licences. A modification of the Imports tariff, however, was effected during the year, the principal object of which was the abolition of additional duties upon certain necessaries of life which had been imposed to reimburse the exceptional expenditure occasioned by the Riots in 1862, and which, although intended at the date of their origin to be temporary imposts, had continued to be levied after the causes calling for their imposition had ceased to exist. The local Government, however, with the additional responsibility thrown upon it by the change in the Constitution of the Colony, which took effect early in 1868, deemed it necessary to give its early attention to this subject. A schedule showing the precise nature of the alterations is appended.

Appendix A. 3. A tabular statement showing the quantities of the principal articles entered for consumption in the past ten years is also appended, from which may be gathered the Appendix B. effect produced by the increased rates referred to.

4. As an addition to the taxation to the extent of about one-fifth of the amount previously raised has been made for the maintenance of a detachment of Imperial troops in the Island, it may not be out of place to advert to the sources from which those imposts were originally intended to be derived, the results consequent thereon, and the measures thereby rendered necessary to make good the shortcomings of the original scheme.

5. It must be borne in mind that the introduction of the troops was at the instance of the late Representative Legislature, which passed an Act in 1866 for levying the following taxes :—

Upon imports, an ad valorem duty of 1 per cent.

Upon houses (not including those on estates), a rate of 5*s.* upon those not exceeding two rooms; and upon larger ones, an additional 1*s.* for every room beyond the first two.

Upon lands, cultivated in any produce subject to export tax, per acre 1*s.*; provision grounds 6*d.*; and pastures 3*d.*; and upon all incomes, of 50*l.* and upwards, 1 per cent.

These taxes were estimated to produce 4,200*l.*, but fell short of that amount to the extent of 832*l.*; the land tax estimated at 1,080*l.* producing little more than half, *viz.* 558*l.*, which if distributed amongst sugar estates alone would be an average of less than 10*l.* a-piece. I allude especially to the amount raised under this head, as considerable opposition was shown to it by an influential section of the principal landowners, who regarded a tax of that nature with peculiar disfavour, as likely to press heavily upon their interest, an apprehension which the result above stated shows to have been without foundation.

6. Under the circumstances, however, of the ascertained insufficiency of these taxes to meet the ordinary and contingent expenditure to which the local Government was pledged, it became necessary to make further provision. A Bill was accordingly introduced to impose a special export tax, equal to a third of the whole of such taxes pre-

viously payable for general purposes and for immigration, and to increase the ad valorem duty upon imports to 2 per cent. Subsequently another Bill was passed to modify the land tax in certain minor respects, and to effect an alteration in the house tax, whereby small houses were partially relieved, the rates upon larger ones being increased. By this Act the incomes derived from estates paying export taxes were exempted from the tax of 1 per cent. to which they were previously liable, a concession made at the earnest desire of the agricultural body.

7. The result of these changes was satisfactorily illustrated by the returns of 1868, the total receipts being 5,530*l.*, an amount exceeding that necessary for the ordinary expenses of the service, to which, however, must be added the cost of repairs to buildings, an exceptional but heavy outlay.

Revenue and Expenditure.

8. The total amount of revenue collected in 1868 (exclusive of special taxes for troops and immigration service) was 19,675*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, and the total expenditure, exclusive of those services, but inclusive of a contribution to the Immigration Fund of 772*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, was 18,835*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, leaving a surplus of 840*l.* 7*s.*, which, together with 744*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, balance from 1867, made 1,584*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* in hand for general purposes at the end of 1868. The revenue for troops was 5,529*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, and the sum expended 2,892*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, leaving 2,636*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, which, with 54*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, balance from 1867, made 2,691*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* in hand at 31st December, against a proportion of contribution then due, amounting to 3000*l.* The Immigration Fund receipts amounted to 2,458*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, including a contribution from the general revenue of 772*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, and a balance from 1867 of 132*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure was 1,859*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; the principal portion being repayment of 1000*l.* borrowed from the general funds in the previous year, and 500*l.* remitted to H.M. Emigration Commissioners. The balance in favour of this account amounted to 599*l.* 8*s.* at the end of 1868, irrespective of 1,071*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* in the hands of the Emigration Commissioners.

9. A reference to the comparative statements will show that the revenue of 1868, inclusive of troops taxes, exceeded that of 1867 by about 3,650*l.*, the increase being chiefly attributable to the augmented troops taxes, and to an apparently greater consumption of excisable spirits and imported goods.

10. The aggregate expenditure, including that for troops, hardly differed from that of the previous year, there being some increase on Works and Buildings, Sanitary purposes (New Vaccination Act), and Judicial, Prisons, and Registration; nearly balanced by a saving of the pension of the late Chief Justice, and the absence of any special grants during the year. A tabular statement is appended of the revenue and expenditure of the past ten years, from which it appears that the expenditure of 1868 was greater than that of the earliest year in the decennial period by no less than 3,700*l.* Of this amount, however, 2,900*l.* was expended on account of the new item of Imperial troops and 460*l.* on local forces which did not exist in 1859.

Appendix C.

Public Debt.

11. The Colony is entirely free from any obligation of this nature.

Military Expenditure.

12. The amount expended by the Colony on account of Imperial troops was, as already shown, 2,892*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, which sum was confined to repairs of buildings and charges of collection, and did not include any part of the contribution due at the end of 1868 to the Imperial Exchequer for maintenance of the troops for three-quarters of a year, *viz.* 3000*l.*, which has since been paid.

13. The expenses of the Militia and Volunteers amounted to 459*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, but an Act was passed during the year, to which attention will subsequently be drawn, by means of which these expenses will be considerably reduced in future.

Public Works.

14. Under this head the comparatively large sum of 1,029*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* appears; exceeding by about 540*l.* the expenditure of 1867. This excess is chiefly owing to a grant of

ST. VINCENT. 500*l.* for completion of a reservoir for water supply to the Hospital, the greater part of which sum has not yet been disbursed (though issued from the Treasury), but is held in abeyance, owing to a suspension of the work in anticipation of the appointment of a Colonial Engineer. For the same reason certain alterations and additions to the Gaol premises, for which another sum of 500*l.* was voted, were not begun. The grant for this purpose has been renewed upon the estimates for 1869.

Legislation.

15. Thirty-one Acts were completed in 1868, of which the most important were as follows:—

16. "An Act to provide an additional fund in aid of the Troops Tax Act, 1866," which Act was passed with the view of making good a deficit in the fund raised for giving effect to a project originated by the late Legislature as already more fully explained.

17. "An Act to authorize the appointment of a Colonial Engineer," passed to remedy the practice previously existing with regard to the execution of public works which was unsatisfactory in the extreme, the local Government being, in the absence of any responsible officer, at the mercy of the contractors.

18. This fact was more fully exemplified in the case of the extensive repairs to the barracks completed in 1868, which though carried out under the supervision of the Royal Engineer department, yet being incurred at the expense of the Colony, would have been less liable to unfavourable criticism had the work been formally approved and on completion taken charge of by a Colonial officer.

19. The repairs to highways also cost annually a large amount, the administration of which is entrusted to unpaid and consequently irresponsible wardens. Giving these gentlemen credit for the best intentions, there is reason to believe that the want of professional skill on their part tends towards the injudicious application of the funds placed at their disposal.

20. "An Act to amend the Troops Tax Act, 1866," which has been previously adverted to.

21. "An Act to consolidate and amend the Constitution Acts 1866 and 1867," the objects of which are indicated by the title, the amendments having been suggested by Her Majesty's Government. In my reports accompanying the Blue Books of 1866 and 1867 I fully stated the nature of the alterations effected by the Acts thus consolidated, and the reasons which led to their introduction.

22. "An Act to repeal the Executive Council Act, 1864, and to provide for the appointment of an Executive Council." By this Act an Executive Council, in the selection of members whereof the Crown is unfettered, has been substituted for that previously existing, the members of which were chosen out of the Legislature only. In the first instance appointments under this Act were with one exception confined to officials, but the instructions on this subject have been since modified.

23. "An Act to extend and make compulsory the practice of Vaccination," the provisions of which accord with those of the Imperial statute, 30 & 31 Victoria, cap. 84. As no general vaccination had taken place in the Colony since 1861, it had become highly essential that some provision in this respect should be made.

24. "An Act to provide for the Registration of Marriages," which was required to render complete the system of registration established in the Colony, which had previously embraced births and deaths only.

25. "An Act to revise and alter the Tariff on Imported Goods." The nature of the alterations and the reasons which induced the Government to adopt them have been already explained.

26. "An Act to amend the Law imposing an Excise Duty on Spirits." The provisions of this Act are in accordance with the spirit of the Imperial statutes, and in most of the details are similar to the laws of Trinidad and St. Lucia. The main feature is the establishment of a system of supervision over the proceedings of the distillers, by the appointment of district officers under the Treasurer. That such a system was necessary will be apparent upon examination of the statement appended, which shows that the receipts from this source when first resorted to were almost as large as they subsequently became under an increase in the duty from 1*s.* to 2*s.* per gallon, there being every reason to

Appendix D.

believe that the production and consumption of rum in the Island had both considerably increased.

27. "An Act to authorize the suspension of certain parts of the Acts relating to the Militia and Volunteer Forces." The Colony having recently provided for the maintenance of a company of European soldiers, at a cost of 4000*l.* a-year (exclusive of barrack accommodation), in addition to an expensive Police Force, it was but natural that every effort should be made to avoid further unnecessary expenditure for protective forces. By this Act the services of the Militia and Volunteers are dispensed with during pleasure; the staff and enrolments being maintained, and the Forces being liable to be called out by proclamation whenever required. The pay of the adjutants, buglers, &c., and cost of clothing, accoutrements, and ammunition are meantime saved, and the clothing, arms, and accoutrements have been returned into store, where provision is made for their proper care.

28. Nine Acts to consolidate and amend various crimimal laws and to assimilate them to modern Imperial statutes. The first six of these were passed in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State. The provisions of the seventh were rendered necessary in consequence of the alterations introduced into the local criminal laws by the enactments of the first six. The provisions of the eighth and ninth were taken from those of the Imperial statutes relating to the same subjects.

Political Franchise.

29. The returns show that in a population which at the last census amounted to 32,000, and which has since increased to the estimated number of 34,000, but 459 persons are registered as qualified electors; and out of this number only 262 availed themselves of their privilege in this respect, and that upon an occasion when a greater amount of political excitement than usual prevailed, owing to an opportunity being offered to the constituencies for recording their opinions as to the expediency of a scheme proposed by Government, involving objects of the highest importance to the community at large. The small proportion of electors to the population, and the indifference shown by that limited number, indicate that the representative element, though retained in form, is in effect merely nominal. The question then arises, how far elected members sitting in the Assembly under such circumstances can with propriety be regarded as the exponents of public opinion.

Executive Council.

30. In accordance with instructions contained in the Secretary of State's despatch, No. 49, of the 27th April, 1868, the appointments made to the Council under the provisions of the "Executive Council Act, 1868," were as follows:—

The Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, President of Assembly, Auditor, Officer Commading the Troops, and William Lynch, Esq., the order of precedence being likewise in accordance with the Secretary of State's instructions.

Legislative Assembly.

31. This body, as formed under the new Constitution, consists of twelve members, viz.:—

Ex-Officio	3
Nominated by Governor	3
Elected by Constituencies	6

The President is nominated by the Governor from amongst these, and he has a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member. Under this arrangement a majority of one is secured to Government.

Establishments.

32. The office of Treasury Accountant was created in 1868, in lieu of a clerk and accountant thitherto appointed by the Treasurer. This alteration was not attended with additional expense to the Colony—the salary granted to the Treasurer under the Act which required him to appoint such clerk being abolished—but had the effect of securing the services of a second responsible officer in the department, which had become necessary in view of the fiscal regulations now applicable to this Colony.

Pensions.

33. A saving of 500*l.* under this head was effected in 1868 by the death in December of the previous year of Mr. Sharpe, the former Chief Justice.

Foreign Consuls.

34. The only representative of this kind is Mr. William Edwin Hughes, Consular Agent of the United States of America, who was approved in 1868.

Population.

Appendices E. and F., not printed.

35. The reports of the Registrar General for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1868, and half-year to 31st December, 1868, are appended. The former shows the number of births to have been 1,591, and the deaths 1,197, nearly 24 per cent. of which latter were those of infants under one year, and 52 per cent. under fifteen years. The total mortality exceeded that of the preceding twelve months by 107, 92 of this additional number being ascribed to fevers which were prevalent during a portion of the year. In the later report is explained the cause of these returns having been heretofore made up for annual periods to the 30th June, instead of to the 31st December, a practice which will in future be amended. The births in the latter half of 1868 were 866, and the deaths 585. It will be observed that whereas the proportion of the former to the returns previously quoted shows an increase, that of the latter exhibits a diminution. The Registrar General observes that while the past half-year had been more healthy (as shown by the general returns), it had been apparently a more fatal season to infant life. The illegitimate birth-rate exhibits unsatisfactory results, and shows that the bulk of the population continue insensible to the efforts made by a zealous body of clergy belonging to the Established Church and other persuasions, to improve their moral condition.

MISCELLANEOUS NUMERICAL RETURNS.

Savings Bank.

36. The number of depositors appears to have increased from 83 to 105, but the objects of the Institution have not yet been attained, the classes for whose benefit it was designed being apparently ignorant of or indifferent to its advantages.

Immigrants.

37. The number of immigrants under indenture atthe end of 1868 were:—

Indian	717
African	24
Portuguese	3

There were no arrivals during the year nor any recorded departures of Indians out of indenture. The system continues to be attended with the most satisfactory results in all respects, and its advantages to the agricultural body are manifested by their desire for a continued supply of this class of labour.

Education.

38. The number of schools remained as in 1867, *viz.* 43, but the returns show an increase of 106 in the number of pupils attending them. The total cost appears to have been 1,927*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, of which sum 850*l.* was contributed from the public Treasury. A comparative statement is appended, which points to a very marked increase in the number of pupils in the course of the past ten years. This increase was apparently interrupted by the occurrence of the Riots in 1862, but has since recovered itself and been progressive.

Appendix G

Imports and Exports.

39. The value of the imports of 1868 was 130,376*l.*, being an increase over those of 1867 of 3,966*l.* Of the total sum there was—

	£
From the United Kingdom	53,881
„ British Colonies	66,711
„ Foreign Countries	9,784

The value of exports was declared at 195,551*l.*, showing a small increase upon those of 1867, *viz.* 580*l.* Of the total, the value of exports to the

	£
United Kingdom was	174,892
British Colonies	11,625
Foreign Countries	9,034

40. The quantities of produce exported in 1868 were as follows:—

Sugar	hogsheads	11,254
Rum	puncheons	1,692
Molasses	„	1,359
Arrowroot	barrels	11,647

which, as compared with 1867, shows an increase on sugar of 109 hogsheads, and on molasses of 150 puncheons; but a decrease on rum of 39 puncheons, and on arrowroot of 794 barrels. The exports of cocoa and cotton have continued to decline. Comparative returns of the value of imports and exports, and of the quantities of exports for the last ten years, are appended. By the latter it will be seen that a very marked increase in the principal staple which arose in 1866 has since been more than maintained. Appendices H. and J.

Gaols and Prisoners.

41. A tabular statement is appended showing the number of commitments in the past ten years, and distinguishing the causes. The classification shows the following results on comparing the first and last years of this period:— Appendix K.

	1859.	1868.	Increase.	Decrease.
Offences dealt with by the Superior Criminal Court	28	12	—	16
Ditto by Magistrates	133	267	134	—
Debtors above 5*l.*	2	12	10	—
Ditto not exceeding 5*l.*	67	120	53	—
Totals	230	411	197	16

It will be observed that whereas the graver offences have decreased, there has been a total general increase of 181 commitments, mostly for minor offences and small debts. With regard to the former, in many instances imprisonment followed as the alternative of fines imposed. With respect to the latter it should be mentioned that the term of imprisonment is limited in the cases of debt not exceeding 2*l.* 10*s.*, to fourteen days, and in other cases, within the limit of 5*l.*, to thirty days.

General.

42. The two events of the year were the inauguration of a new form of Government, and the re-occupation, after an interval of fourteen years, of the barracks at Fort Charlotte by a detachment of Imperial troops. The first of these events was brought about, as I have previously reported, solely by the action of the Representative body, as it then existed, without the aid of Government influence; and though a proposition to adopt the Crown Colony system in its entirety apparently met with popular disapproval, yet the very limited extent to which the Constituent body have subsequently availed themselves

ST. VINCENT. of the privileges they seemed so jealous to maintain, and the present constitution of this portion of the Assembly, would indicate an apathy on the part of the constituencies in the administration of public affairs, conducing to the belief that the interests of the community would be at least equally well served were a more direct responsibility thrown upon the Government. The establishment of a force of regular troops is also a circumstance not to be lightly regarded; and I have no hesitation in saying that if protection is required, this is the most effectual method of securing it, considering the difficulties in the way of procuring material for the establishment of a local corps. The garrison was, as first arranged, to consist of a company of infantry, but subsequent representations have induced Her Majesty's Government to increase the force to 100 rank and file. With respect to the general condition of the Colony, I think the statistical returns already quoted speak for themselves. The seasons were unusually mild, and at an early period gave indications of a tendency to the drought which subsequently became more developed, affecting prejudicially the prospects of many Colonies, but fortunately only to a comparative extent in the case of this Island. No breach of the public peace occurred during the year, the labouring population being well behaved, and according to all accounts contented; and although their moral state is far from what is to be desired, still the means for ameliorating their condition in this respect are furnished with no chary hand, both by the local Government and by members of independent religious persuasions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX A.

TABLE showing the INCREASED RATES of IMPORT DUTY levied in 1863, and the alterations made with respect to the same Articles by the New Tariff adopted in 1868.

Articles upon which the Duty was increased in 1863.	Duty prior to Increase in 1863.	Duty as Increased in 1863.	Duty under New Tariff, 7th October, 1868.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ale, Beer, Porter, Cider, and Perry - per tun	1 5 0	2 10 0	2 10 0
Ditto - - in bottle, per doz.	0 0 4	0 0 8	0 0 8
Beef or Pork (salted) - - per barrel (200 lbs.)	0 8 4	0 12 6	0 8 4
Fish (dried or salted) - - - per 112 lbs.	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 1 0½ per 100 lbs.
Ditto (pickled) - - - per barrel (200 lbs.)	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 1 0
Ditto, Herrings, Salmon, &c. (smoked) per 112 lbs.	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 1 0½ „
Hams, Bacon, Pickled Tongues - „	0 4 2	0 6 3	0 4 2 „
Guns, Pistols, &c. - - - - -	5 % ad valorem	1 0 0 each	5 % ad valorem.
Gunpowder - - - - - -	ditto	0 2 0 per lb.	ditto.
Spirits and Cordials - - - - -	0 2 0 per gall.	0 4 0 per gall.	Brandy - 4/ per gall.
			Gin - - 2/ „
			Rum - 2/ „
			Cordials - 4/ „
Tobacco (manufactured) - - per cwt.	1 5 0	5 12 0	5 12 0
Ditto (unmanufactured) - - „	0 6 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
Wines - - - - per 100*l.* of value	12 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0

APPENDIX B.

TABLE showing the QUANTITIES of the principal Articles of IMPORTED GOODS entered for CONSUMPTION, with the Rate of Duty, and the amount of Duty Received on each Article, in the years from 1859 to 1868, both inclusive.

Articles.	Rate of Duty.		1859.		1860.		1861.		1862.		1863.		1864.		1865.		1866.		1867.		1868.	
	From 1859 to 1862, inclusive.	From Feb. 6, 1863, to Oct. 7, 1868.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.	Quantities.	Duty.
Beef (salted and cured)	8/4 per barrel.	12/6 per barrel.	570	233	513	215	289	120	318	133	263	158	241	151	182	114	177	110	126	79	167	94
Fish (dried)	1/- „ cwt.	2/- „ cwt.	11,153	557	12,837	642	11,858	593	9462	473	9194	861	9832	983	7720	772	7918	791	9053	905	8622	847
Fish (pickled)	1/- „ barrel.	2/- „ barrel.	1526	76	1124	56	1984	99	1407	70	2348	223	1384	139	1489	149	2028	202	2423	242	1542	136
Flour	4/- „ „	4/- „ „	7561	1512	7509	1501	6433	1286	7212	1442	7153	1410	8752	1736	6611	1322	5714	1142	4285	857	5522	1102
Malt Liquors	6/3 „ hogshd.	12/6 „ hogshd.	433	173	575	195	364	155	356	131	358	219	375	249	368	279	310	274	256	234	278	260
	-/4 „ doz.	-/8 „ doz.	2260		1912		2416		1222		800		407		1448		2394		2200		2551	
Pork (salted and cured)	8/4 „ barrel.	12/6 „ barrel.	1899	787	1384	576	1552	654	1801	750	1688	1007	1429	893	1194	746	1065	661	981	613	1037	586
Rice	1/- „ cwt.	1/- „ cwt.	2510	125	2310	110	2487	124	4432	221	3436	171	3703	185	2781	139	3705	185	3093	154	3881	198
Spirits—Brandy	2/- „ gall.	4/- „ gall.	2107	210	1893	189	2157	215	2235	223	975	173	1121	224	1015	203	1318	263	1142	228	1302	260
„ Gin	2/- „ „	4/- „ „	5129	512	4875	487	5167	516	4724	472	3122	382	1681	261	2696	539	2540	508	2818	563	3595	563
„ Cordials	2/- „ „	4/- „ „	97	9	65	6	—	—	93	7	297	56	28	5	73	14	55	11	67	13	202	32
Tobacco (leaf)	6/- „ cwt.	-/3 „ lb.	377	113	476	142	360	108	443	133	240	284	407	571	325	455	443	620	407	570	381	533
„ (manufactured)	25/- „ „	1/- „ „	9	11	15	18	13	17	14	17	$10\frac{3}{4}$	35	$1\frac{1}{2}$	8	$2\frac{1}{4}$	12	4	22	7	39	$2\frac{1}{4}$	13
Wines	12 % ad valorem.	20 % ad valorem.	2025	244	2013	241	2346	282	2525	303	1277	244	1615	322	1564	312	1745	349	1517	303	1913	382

NOTE.—In 1863, in order to raise additional Revenue to refund the large loan taken to meet the heavy expenses of the Riots in 1862, the duty on Beef and Pork was increased by one-third; the duty on Fish, Malt, and Spirits was doubled; and the duty on Wines and Tobacco was largely increased. As regarded the cheaper descriptions of Gin, the effect of this change was to exclude its importation; and on 7th October, 1868, a revised Tariff came into force by which the duty on Gin and Fish was reduced by one-half, and the duty on Beef and Pork by one-third; but the higher rates were retained on Malt, Wines, and Tobacco.

APPENDIX C.

Table of Revenue and Expenditure (without that for Immigration) in the years from 1859 to 1868, both inclusive.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£		£	£
1859	18,709	17,962	1864	20,289	19,781
1860	18,867	19,037	1865	18,421	18,440
1861	18,654	18,923	1866	20,680	20,281
1862	*22,693	†21,548	1867	§21,554	‖21,599
1863	19,388	‡20,887	1868	¶25,204	**21,727

* Loan of 4,400*l.* included. † Riots expenses 2,205*l.* ‡ Riots expenses 1,267*l.*
§ Tax for maintenance of H.M. troops 3,168*l.* ‖ Cost for troops 3,113*l.*
¶ Tax for maintenance of H.M. troops 5,529*l.* ** 3,000*l.* for troops chargeable on this year paid in 1869.

APPENDIX D.

Table of Rum Duties received in the years from 1859 to 1868, both inclusive, with the Rate of Duty per Gallon.

Year.	Duty.	Rate.	Year.	Duty.	Rate.
	£			£	
1859	2,155	1/– per gall.	1864	3,297	2/– per gall.
1860	1,737	„ „	1865	2,795	„ „
1861	2,207	„ „	1866	2,713	„ „
1862	2,321	*1/6 „	1867	2,618	„ „
1863	2,776	†2/– „	1868	3,156	„ „

* The additional rate levied from 10th April, 1862. † The additional rate levied from 6th February, 1863.

The population in 1861 by census was 31,755. The duty on rum in that year was 2,207*l.*, which at 1*s.* per gallon represented a consumption of 44,140 gallons, or equal to an allowance of 1·39 gallon per head. The duty in 1864 was 3,297*l.*, which at 2*s.* per gallon represented a consumption of 32,970 gallons. The registration statistics point to an annual increase in the population of upwards of 400. This will make the population in 1864 equal to 32,955, and will give an allowance of 1 gallon per head. In 1867 the consumption was 26,180 by a population of 34,155, giving an allowance of only ·76 gallon per head. In 1869 the consumption is averaging at the rate of 38,400 gallons, which with the population increased to 34,555 gives an allowance of 1·11 gallon per head, or nearly 50 per cent. on the previous year's consumption.

This can only be attributed to the supervision established by the appointment of Excise Officers, under the new Spirit Duties Act, which came into operation on the 15th January of this year.

Appendix E *and* Appendix F *not printed.*

APPENDIX G.

Statement showing the Progress of Education by the Comparative Attendance at Schools, during the Years 1859 to 1868, both inclusive.

Years.	Number of Scholars.									
	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
Church of England - - -	812	1,002	1,157	1,276	895	962	1,366	1,560	1,647	1,617
Church of Rome - - -	167	171	146	156	165	99	99	136	89	182
Wesleyan Society - - -	1,016	1,016	889	1,019	865	655	819	1,039	1,100	1,143
Total - -	1,995	2,189	2,192	2,451	1,925	1,716	2,284	2,735	2,836	2,942

It would appear that the Riots at the close of the year 1862 affected the attendance of scholars at the schools; and that it was not until after two years had elapsed that the schools began to recover the position they had attained before these Riots.

APPENDIX H.

TABLE showing VALUES of IMPORTS and EXPORTS, and TONNAGE of VESSELS entered and cleared at CUSTOM HOUSE, in the years from 1859 to 1868, both inclusive.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage entered Inwards.	Tonnage cleared Outwards.	Tonnage cleared Outwards with Cargo.
1859 -	131,451	178,990	19,272	18,592	15,115
1860 -	150,343	172,265	19,173	20,123	15,341
1861 -	150,478	183,676	18,508	18,890	13,732
1862 -	140,289	143,323	15,706	15,040	12,945
1863 -	108,686	142,337	16,571	16,342	12,972
1864 -	136,148	166,413	15,614	15,096	12,702
1865 -	121,145	147,852	16,032	15,324	12,582
1866 -	158,159	194,174	20,264	18,070	15,593
1867 -	126,410	194,972	18,494	18,430	16,629
1868 -	130,374	195,551	20,571	20,986	17,383

APPENDIX J.

TABLE of PRODUCE manufactured in and exported from ST. VINCENT in the years from 1859 to 1868, both inclusive.

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Arrowroot.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Puncheons.	Barrels.
1859 -	8,450	1,978	461	10,147
1860 -	9,087	1,605	621	7,962
1861 -	9,699	1,950	603	7,949
1862 -	8,410	1,827	305	5,490
1863 -	8,746	1,554	408	7,275
1864 -	8,168	1,284	1,418	7,229
1865 -	8,456	1,794	916	7,433
1866 -	10,985	1,796	1,063	14,645
1867 -	11,145	1,731	1,209	12,441
1868 -	11,254	1,692	1,359	11,647

APPENDIX K.

TABLE of CRIME, as shown by the COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of COMMITMENTS in the Years from 1859 to 1868, both inclusive; with a STATEMENT of the MORTALITY in each Year among the Inmates of the Gaol.

	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
Commitments upon convictions at the Courts of Grand Sessions of the Peace:—										
Injuries to the person - - - - -	17	8	7	6	7	10	6	12	4	5
Injuries to property - - - - -	11	3	6	8	17	11	10	14	10	7
Riots - - - - - - -	—	2	—	71	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences - - - - - -	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total by Courts of Sessions - -	28	16	13	86	25	21	18	26	14	12
Commitments upon convictions by the Police and Stipendiary Magistrates:—										
Injuries to the person - - - - -	16	42	28	32	47	29	30	42	49	44
Injuries to property - - - - - -	30	64	33	43	47	77	54	76	78	87
Disturbance of public peace and drunkenness -	6	6	25	24	10	35	8	19	17	17
Other petty offences - - - - -	66	58	31	35	52	63	82	78	59	89
Breaches of contract - - - - -	13	9	30	15	18	29	32	37	28	30
Desertions from ships - - - - -	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total by Police and Stipendiary Magistrates	133	181	148	149	174	234	206	252	231	267
By Police Magistrates under executions for debt under 5*l.* in Petty-debt Courts on civil process - -	67	44	68	72	80	71	112	105	131	120
By Supreme Civil Courts under executions for debt above 5*l.* - - - - - - - -	2	6	15	7	12	13	13	10	10	12
Total commitments for debt - -	69	50	83	79	92	84	125	115	141	132
Gross total of commitments - - -	230	247	244	314	291	339	349	393	386	411
Deaths in gaol - - - - - - -	—	1	3	—	—	2	2	3	4	1

Debtors in sums under 5*l.* are imprisoned for fourteen days if the debt be under 2*l.* 10*s.*, and for thirty days if the debt be above that sum. Debtors in sums above 5*l.* are imprisoned until the debt be discharged, or arranged with the creditor.

GRENADA.

No. 9.

GRENADA.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Administrator of the Government to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 59.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, August 6, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1868. The usual reports on former years have been so full and comprehensive on the various details of the government of the Colony, that I shall, on this occasion, only offer a few observations on the operations of the past year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The total revenue, with the arrears of 1867, amounted to the sum of 21,923*l.* 19*s.*, and was larger than that of the previous year; an increase having been derived under the following sources: viz. Imports and Excise duties, Licenses and Fees of Office.

3. The expenditure of the Colony amounted to 21,920*l.* 9*s.*, against 25,686*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year, showing a decrease of 3,766*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; but it must be remembered that there was in 1867 a charge for 13 months' services, whilst the accounts for the past year represent the actual expenditure during the 12 months.

Legislation.

4. Eight Acts were passed during the year, viz.: "An Act to authorize the application "of part of the Moneys raised for and collected from Rents of Public Lands, Water "Tax and Harbour Dues by way of Loan to meet the exigencies of the Public Service." 2. "An Act to provide for the Appropriation of the Casual Revenue of the Crown "arising from Escheated Estates." 3. "An Act to simplify the Returns of Rum ware-"housed in Grenada." 4. "An Act to incorporate the St. George's Friendly Society." 5. "An Act to provide for the Payment of Bounties to resident Indian Immigrants, and "for prolonging their Term of Service." 6. "An Act to impose an Additional Duty on "Rum consumed and sold for Consumption in this Colony." 7. "An Act to compel the "Owners or Possessors of Lands within the Boundary Line of the Harbour of St. George "to keep in repair and renew the Wharves in front of their respective Lots." And 8. "An Act for granting unto Her Majesty an Aid by Rates, Taxes, and Assessments."

Population.

5. The returns of the Registrar-General exhibit an increase of 598, or 1·66 per cent., to the population. The number of births registered was 1,493, and of deaths 895. The birth and death rates respectively being 4·14 per cent. and 2·48 per cent. to the population.

Imports and Exports.

6. The following table shows the value of the imports and exports during the last five years.

IMPORTS.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
121,313 19 2	114,111 0 2	122,255 10 4	111,917 17 10	108,766 18 9

EXPORTS.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
153,215 1 6	118,045 11 0	113,237 5 8	116,199 10 11	103,895 5 3

7. The trade of the Colony, both as regards the imports and exports, has been gradually declining during the last five years, but a change may, however, be looked for, in consequence of the improved tone in the produce markets.

Produce.

8. The sugar crop of 1868 was smaller than that of 1867. No marked improvement can be reported in the system of cultivation, or in that of the manufacture of sugar. Two of the estates which were being abandoned in St. Patrick have been purchased by other proprietors, who are likely to restore and extend the cultivation, and it is probable that a few other estates similarly circumstanced will likewise change hands, which may stimulate and lead to improvement and arrest the downward tendency of the cane cultivation of the Colony; but no great improvement need be expected without an addition to the labouring population.

9. A great many of our effective labourers have withdrawn themselves from the sugar estates, having purchased small lots of land on which they locate themselves (especially in St. John, St. Mark, and to some extent in St. Patrick), where large quantities of ground provisions are produced beyond the requirements of the population, which they ship to Trinidad and elsewhere.

10. The reduction in the price of cotton has led to its being less cultivated than formerly. Its cultivation is now almost entirely confined to Carriacou.

11. Cocoa is cultivated to a large extent in the upper lands. The high price of that article in the home markets within the last few years has given a stimulus to extended cultivation, consequently, as young trees are annually coming into bearing, the amount of that produce will proportionately increase.

General Remarks.

12. It is satisfactory to report that the number of convictions for crime, both by the Supreme and Inferior Courts of the Colony, continues to be smaller than that of previous years. The Provost-Marshal observes that "the offences are of a less serious nature "than formerly, and that commitments for assault of an aggravated nature, once so "frequent, are of rare occurrence."

13. The whole country has suffered to a fearful extent by the long-continued drought during the latter half of the year, and which extended to the month of June last. The sea-side estates have, of course, shared the worse in the severity of the season. The prospects of next year's crops are very poor indeed, and although the rainy season has now set in and the plants in a measure somewhat resuscitated, but a poor picture can, I regret to say, be seen of the cultivation around, especially that of the sugar cane.

14. The health of the Colony during the year was of the ordinary kind, and the people were as usual peaceable and contented.

I have, &c.,

Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ANDW. MUNRO.

Tobago.

No. 10.

TOBAGO.

No 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Administrator of the Government to Governor Rawson, C.B.

(No. 51.)

Sir, Government House, Tobago, July 7, 1869.

In the absence of Lieutenant-Governor Kortright administering the government of Trinidad, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Island for the past year, together with the following report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for the year 1868, including 320*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* balance in hand of the Public Treasurer at 1st January, was 9,354*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, showing a deficiency, as compared with the previous year, of 486*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, and if casual revenue temporarily lodged by the Escheator-General, amounting to 348*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, be added thereto, the total deficiency of revenue would be 834*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

3. This deficiency principally arises from short receipts on import duties, 336*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; tax on horses on estates repealed, 151*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*; assessed taxes on lands and tenements which were this year reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. on annual rental, 442*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*; and diminution on dog licences, occasioned by reduction of tax and a great mortality among the dogs, 100*l.* 10*s.*

Expenditure.

4. The expenditure for the year amounted to 10,459*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, being 1,104*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* more than the revenue, and 1,277*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* in excess of 1867.

5. The increase of expenditure arises chiefly from the amounts spent on roads, repairs to public buildings, increase of charge for judicial establishment this year, and expenses attending appeal courts in St. Lucia, and providing for a larger number of prisoners in gaol.

6. It was foreseen early in the year that to keep a parity between income and expenditure it would be necessary to re-impose an assessed tax of 10 per cent. on the rental of lands, tenements, and hereditaments: nevertheless, whether from anticipated large revenue from imports, or beguiled by the knowledge of a small balance at credit of the Colony in the commencement of the year, the Legislature only imposed a tax of 7½ per cent. This tax has now, however, been re-imposed at 10 per cent. as heretofore.

Public Debt.

7. Of the loan of 20,000*l.* granted by Her Majesty's Government to the Colony in 1849 in aid of the sufferers by the hurricane on 11th October, 1847, 200*l.* has been paid this year, leaving a balance on that account still due of 791*l.* 9*s.*, and which, with a balance of 1,104*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* due to public creditors, gives the sum of 1,896*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* as the debt outstanding against the Colony.

Public Works.

8. The only work that can be termed new this year was the embankment and building of a substantial wall to support the same in front of the public buildings in Scarborough.

9. There were, however, several repairs made to the said building, as also at Government House, and the outer bounding wall of the gaol has been substantially repaired.

10. These buildings and repairs cost 306*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* There has also been expended on the repair of the public roads and erection of bridges the sum of 1,191*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*

11. The sum of 167*l.* 14*s.* was received as commutation money under the Road Act, and became part of the general revenue.

Legislature.

12. During the two legislative sessions prescribed by law, 21 Acts were passed, the principal of which are:—

1. "An Act for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths."
2. "An Act to amend the Road Act;" the principal alteration being the substitution of Road Commissioners with a paid Inspector, instead of Way Wardens as formerly.
3. "An Act for the registration of bills of sale of personal chattels." This Act was passed with a view to prevent frauds on creditors by secret bills of sale, and requires that bills of sale be executed before witnesses and registered within ten days, otherwise the same to be void.
4. "An Act to fix the salary of the Attorney-General or other first law officer of the Crown." This Act fixes the salary of the Attorney-General at 250*l.* per annum, and constitutes him standing Counsel to the Legislature.
5. "An Act to assimilate the law of Tobago with regard to treason and treasonable offences to the law of England." This Act was passed on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government.
6. "An Act to alter the duties payable on tonnage dues and lighthouse fees." This Act increased the tonnage dues from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and lighthouse fees from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per ton.
7. "An Act to enable masters of vessels to pay specified duties in lieu of tonnage dues." Transient vessels not landing cargo are exempt from all dues under the last-mentioned Act.

13. The other Acts passed were of a local character, being chiefly the Supply, Licences, and Appropriation Acts.

Councils and Assemblies.

14. A vacancy occurred in the Legislative Council by the death of Mr. Charles Isaac Le Plastrier in December last.

15. This gentleman was also Provost Marshal and Postmaster. His services to the Colony, which were meretoriously performed, extended over a period of thirty years.

Population.

16. The natural increase of the population for the year has been estimated at 190, thus making the supposed population, calculated at 1·23 per cent. per annum for seven years, to be about 16,740.

17. The report of the Registrar-General is appended hereto, from which it appears that the total births in the year was 595, and deaths 405, showing an excess of births of 190.

18. The-Registrar General states that, "assuming there has been no decrease by "emigration, the increase of the population for the last seven years might be approxi- "mated at 1,330, being at the rate of 1·23 per cent. per annum. This assumption is also "based on the hypothesis that immigration into the Island from the neighbouring "Colonies, inclusive of 225 Africans introduced in 1862, would be equivalent to any "possible diminution by emigration."

Ecclesiastical.

19. There are three rectors and one Island curate of the Church of England. The number of persons generally attending on public worship is estimated at 1,660.

20. The Moravians have four churches, the general attendance whereat is returned at 1,450.

21. The Wesleyans have nine chapels and preaching-places, the general attendance at which being returned at 2,450.

22. The rectors receive a stipend of 320*l.* each, and the assistant-curate 100*l.*, making a total of 1,060*l.* per annum, paid out of the funds of the Colony.

23. The Moravian and Wesleyan ministers are supported by voluntary contributions and their own societies.

24. The Wesleyans, by an Act passed last year, 30 Vict. c. 9, were granted the sum of 300*l.*, payable by annual instalments of 50*l.*, to enable them to liquidate the debt due on their trust property in this Island.

TOBAGO.

Education.

25. The following is a tabular view of the state of education in this Island :—

Denomination.	No. of Day Schools.	No. of Teachers.	Total No. of Scholars.		Total.	Colonial Grants.	Voluntary Contributions
			Males.	Females.			
						£	£ s. d.
Church of England -	13	14	362	397	759	100	171 10 0
Moravians - -	6	11	410	342	752	100	60 14 2
Wesleyans - -	7	8	289	223	512	100	141 5 10
Total - -	26	33	1,061	962	2,023	300	373 10 0

26. As compared with 1867 the above return would show a decrease in the number of children attending the day schools of 142, the larger number being males.

Imports and Exports.

IMPORTS.

27. A decrease of 5,931*l.* appears in the value of the imports as compared with 1867. The total value of imports for 1868 is estimated at 48,895*l.* The falling off may be attributed to a diminution in the agricultural operations of the Colony, consequent on the drought, thus restricting supplies, and materially affecting the action of trade.

28. The following are some of the items wherein a deficiency in value is apparent:

——	1867.	1868.	Deficiency.	——	1867.	1868.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Ale - - - value	963	815	148	Fish (dried) - - value	3,419	3,077	342
Animals - - „	1,599	1,551	48	Hardware - - „	2,583	2,136	447
Apparel - - - „	263	27	236	Linens and Cottons „	12,856	9,613	3,243
Beef and Pork - „	2,978	2,599	379	Machinery - - „	1,388	848	540
Boots and Shoes - „	425	304	121	Packs and Shooks „	2,644	1,469	1,175
Bricks and Tiles - „	481	238	243	Rice - - - „	1,477	1,347	130
Cornmeal - - „	643	577	66	Soap - - - „	1,140	1,031	109
Fish (pickled) - „	931	550	381	Wood Hoops - - „	437	297	140

An increase in some articles of import is discernable, and in manures it would seem the value this year is 610*l.* against 223*l.* in 1867, or an increase of 387*l.* in this article.

29. The following tables shew the state of trade from the various countries to this Colony.

IMPORTS.

Countries.	1867.	1868.	Increase.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	22,458	21,324	—	1,134
British Colonies - -	32,368	25,475	—	6,893
Foreign Countries - -	—	2,096	2,096	—
Total - -	54,826	48,895	2,096	7,027

EXPORTS.

Countries.	1867.	1868.	Increase.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	53,778	45,769	—	8,009
British Colonies - -	2,173	2,648	475	—
Foreign Countries - -	—	—	—	—
Total - -	55,951	48,417	475	8,009

Agricultural.

30. The following table exhibits the quantity of the staples exported from the Island for five years from 1864 :—

Years.	Sugars.					Rum.				Molasses.		Cotton.	Cocoa-nuts.
	Hhds.	Trcs.	½ Trcs.	Brls.	Cwts.	Puns.	Hhds.	½ Casks.	Galls.	Casks.	Cwts.	Lbs.	M.
1864 - -	2,344	774	57	3,294	50,973	617	34	2	58,770	424	4,452	6,642	171,978
1865 - -	2,426	918	41	3,087	52,703	819	39	4	77,644	307	3,223	23,195	240,885
1866 - -	4,108	1,952	135	4,399	90,295	1,251	74	2	119,292	527	5,533	20,646	410,609
1867 - -	3,170	1,438	85	4,136	71,493	957	50	—	91,022	424	4,452	17,068	433,840
1868 - -	2,225	922	88	2,498	48,682	694	25	—	65,248	155	1,627	7,236	555,037

31. The falling off in the crops of 1867 and particularly this year is attributable to the drought that has affected the cultivation especially in the Leward or Sandy Point district of the Island, but notwithstanding the discouragements and difficulties the planting interest have had to contend against, their energy is unimpared, as is witnessed by the introduction of machinery within the last two years to the extent of 2,236*l.*; and relying on the hope that Providence may grant them more genial seasons, they struggle on in the expectation of meeting a reward in those remunerative crops which this fertile Island is quite capable, under ordinary circumstances, of producing.

Gaols and Prisoners.

32. The gaol is capable of containing 17 prisoners in separate cells, or 50 prisoners where more than one person sleeps in one cell.

33. The greatest number of prisoners confined at one time during the year was 27 males and three females; total 30. (Return made up to Michaelmas.)

34. The number of prisoners committed during the year was 191 males, and 39 females, total 230. In 1867 the number was, males 159, females 21; total 180.

35. There does not appear to have been any debtors confined during the year.

36. On 5th November last a new prison rule was added to the existing regulations, directing that, "all adult male prisoners sentenced to hard labour are to be worked " either within or without the walls of the gaol at the discretion of the Lieutenant-" Governor in Executive Committee, and when worked within the walls such hard labour " shall consist of shot drill, crank, and stone breaking, or either of them, the nature and " extent of such several means of labour to be regulated as the Lieutenant-Governor in " Executive Committee may from time to time direct, but no such prisoners shall be " employed without the walls of the prison until after the expiration of one month from " the date of the commencement of such hard labour."

37. The use of shot drill as a penal exercise was thereon introduced, and it is hoped it will have a beneficial effect in deterring from the commission of crime.

38. Reports of the Inspector and of the Surgeon of the prison are appended hereto.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

39. An old building, formerly a portion of the Commissariat premises, is appropriated as an Asylum for the invalid poor, where some 12 persons on an average receive medical attendance and sustenance, and there are about 82 persons receiving out-door relief.

40. The cost of the maintenance of the paupers at the Asylum, and allowance to out-door poor, including medical relief, was a charge on the revenue to the extent of 473*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

Literary.

41. A reading room has been originated this year in Scarborough, where sundry periodicals and the principal English newspapers are to be found. It is maintained by private subscriptions. This it is hoped may prove a forerunner to the establishment of a library, and thus stimulate a desire for literary pursuits.

TOBAGO.

General.

42. The Island during the year was visited by a disease hitherto scarcely known here, and of somewhat rare occurrence in these Islands.

43. Mr. Stipendiary Justice Yeates in his report on the subject states, that the distemper, supposed to be Hydrophobia, was confined not to dogs only but that horned cattle, asses, sheep, swine, and other animals suffered from it, and had to be destroyed or fell victims to the epidemic, and even three human beings are stated to have died under circumstances that left no doubt of the results of Hydrophobia.

Mr. Yeates reports further that at the same time poultry were attacked and died in considerable numbers of a peculiar distemper.

The Island I am happy to say is now quite free of the epidemic.

44. Public tranquillity was preserved during the year and notwithstanding that the drought caused much privation and sorely tried both the feelings and resources of many, still on the whole the people have exhibited a cheerful disposition and a desire to labour, and I believe I am correct in saying that they continue unwavering in their loyalty and attachment to the Government and person of our most gracious Sovereign.

I have, &c.

Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. H. KEENS.

NOTE.—*The Enclosures to this Report are not printed.*

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 544.)

MY LORD, Windward Islands, Barbados, May 10, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1868, with the usual report thereon from the Administrator.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON, Governor.

(No. 92.)

SIR, Government Office, St. Lucia, April 30, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1868, with the uusual comparative returns annexed. The history of St. Lucia has for years been so uniform that there is very little for me to report, but I am able to state with pleasure that the last year was one of moderate prosperity. A large crop and remunerative prices exercised, as they always do, a beneficial influence upon commerce and the public revenue, and we have had the satisfaction of beginning this year with a small surplus (about 800*l.*), instead of, as has very commonly been the case of late, showing either an exact balance of account, or being saddled with an actual deficiency. In these small West India Colonies it is something to be able to show that there has been no retrogression. In our case there has even been some improvement.

Revenue.

2. The total revenue was as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General revenue	15,346	7	7
Education fund	579	7	10
Roads and bridges fund	1,301	16	7
Immigration	1,527	13	1
Military property	188	7	10
Castries Harbour dredge fund	142	6	10
Loan fund	314	17	5
Casual revenue fund	153	0	4
Loan from bank for payment of back passage of Coolies	1,500	0	0
	£21,053	17	6

3. The general revenue exceeded considerably both the estimated revenue and the actual income of the previous year.

	£	s.	d.
Estimated revenue for 1868 - - -	14,355	0	0
Actual ditto ditto - -	15,346	7	7
Excess - - - - £	991	7	7
General revenue for 1867 - - -	13,442	7	1
Ditto ditto 1868 - - -	15,346	7	7
Excess in 1868 - - - £	1,904	0	6

4. This considerable augmentation is mainly due to the increase under the head of Import Duties (with the same tariff), and in the duty collected on rum made and consumed in the Colony.

	1867			1868.			Increase.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports - -	5,231	5	3	6,652	0	10	1,420	15	7
Rum duties - -	4,664	9	2	5,390	6	0	725	16	10
							£2,146	12	5

The revenue under the head of "Miscellaneous" was less than in 1867 by about 270*l.*, owing to the following causes: that the land revenues for the whole year were carried to the casual revenue account; that there was less legacy duty collected; and that owing to the Coolie depôt being closed at the end of June, the amount transferred from the immigration fund to the general revenue for rations supplied to the inmates from the gaol was less than in 1867, when it had been open for the whole year.

Imports and Exports.

5. The following table shows the value of the imports and exports for the last five years:—

Years.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1864 - - -	90,363	1	3	111,383	15	11
1865 - -	70,757	10	8	107,321	8	4
1866 - - -	91,504	13	8	109,402	18	8
1867 - -	71,138	2	8	93,831	10	4
1868 - - -	97,845	14	10	121,366	0	0

It will be seen that the increase has been considerably over every other year in the series given. The increase in the former must be attributed to the more prosperous condition of the colonists, in the latter to the large sugar crop.

Export Duties.

6. Owing to the latter cause, the amount realized from this impost shows favourably.

	£	s.	d.
The amount devoted to educational purposes was - - -	157	4	9
Ditto carried to roads and bridges account - - -	584	9	0
Ditto carried to the immigration fund - - - -	225	10	10
Amount employed for the primary purpose for which the greater part of the duty is raised, namely, to pay the instalments and interest of the guaranteed loans to this Colony (18,000*l.*), and to form a sinking fund for their redemption -	1,408	12	0
Total export duty - - - - £	2,375	16	7

7. Comparing this amount with the collection of last year, it will be found that there was an increase of 292*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* Towards the close of the year an extra penny per 100 hogsheads was laid upon sugar for the liquidation of a loan contracted to pay for the back passages of some of the Indian immigrants.

ST. LUCIA.

Expenditure.

8. The general expenditure was both less than the estimates and that of the previous year.

	£	s.	d.
Estimated general expenditure 1868	14,533	4	0
Actual ditto ditto	13,809	11	3
Difference	£ 723	12	9
General expenditure of 1867	14,295	11	7
Ditto ditto 1868	13,809	11	3
Decrease	£ 486	0	4

The saving has been mainly caused by the very large diminution in the number of prisoners confined in the Castries Gaol during the year, which has effected a corresponding reduction in the expenses of this institution.

The total expenditure of the Colony is given below.

	£	s.	d.
General expenditure	13,809	11	3
Education	622	15	9
Immigration	7,612	7	3
Roads and bridges	1,012	14	10
Military property (rents of)	128	8	1
Loan fund, balance of interest and principal repaid	314	7	5
Castries Harbour dredge fund	126	17	0
Casual revenue	11	14	0
	£23,639	5	7

10. The excess of "Total Expenditure" is very considerable.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure of 1868	23,639	5	7
Ditto ditto of 1867	18,386	19	11
Excess	£ 5,252	5	8

It is due to the large amount disbursed under the head of "Immigration" for back passages to Coolies, and for bounty to those who were willing to commute their right to a free passage back to India by a money payment.

Public Works.

11. A new gaoler's house, which is now nearly completed, was commenced last year, and the new wards to the lunatic asylum were completed, and have proved a very valuable addition to that institution. Some wooden bridges were replaced by constructions of stone and bricks.

Establishments.

12. A new office was created last year, which has worked very satisfactorily.

It must be premised that hitherto the district Courts of Requests (composed of the Special Justice of the district, the one of the adjoining district, and one or more Justices of the Peace) took the appeals from the Courts of Petty Sessions and Petty Debts, and the Royal Court had an appellate jurisdiction over the Courts of Requests. But as the Royal Court always sits in Castries, appellants and respondents were brought from all parts of the Island to have their cases decided in that town, to their great expense and inconvenience. Moreover they had to appear by counsel, and it not unfrequently happened that cases were postponed for one or two courts running, which added to the expense and loss of time of all interested in or concerned with appeals. Last year a

change was made, which is working very well, and is a great improvement over the old system. A Commissioner is appointed, who sits at stated periods in the towns of Castries, Soufrière, and Vieuxfort, and hears appeals from the Courts of Requests and Petty Sessions in a summary way and without pleas in writing. Each appeal is therefore settled in the district in which it arose, and a minimum of inconvenience and expense is thereby caused to the suitors. The Court of Requests also is held by the Special Justice of the district alone, which ensures greater regularity in the holding of these courts. The Commissioner is paid 100*l.* per annum, and this is the whole of the expense incurred by the change.

During the past year the Council was deprived by death of two valuable unofficial members, the Honourables J. P. Lenger and C. de Brettes. There was a very unexpected mortality among the Roman Catholic clergy. Four succumbed during the year: the Rev. Abbé Jacquart, who had been a long time resident in St. Lucia and was deservedly respected and esteemed, the Rev. Abbé Pinto, who had been in the Colony about two years, and the Revs. Abbé Mourocq and Abbé Ulteza; the former had been a few months in one of the out districts, and the latter only a few days. There was some difficulty in filling up the vacancies, but at present one parish only remains unfilled (Anse la Raye). Mr. Caffyn, who had been for many years one of the landing waiters, and Mr. Shugg, the harbour master, also died during the year. Mr. Parker (the late auditor), who was pensioned off in the early part of the year, must be added to the list of deceased officers.

Legislation.

13. There were eight Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council last year.

No. 1. 16th January. The object of this ordinance was to give more time to apellants in the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands to file their petitions.

Under the ordinance of 1864 only fifteen days were allowed to an appellant (after jugdment, to file his petition in appeal, and for the Chief Justice to settle any objection or dispute which might be raised with regard to the sureties proposed by him, also for the respondent to give security in cases in which the judge allowed the execution of the decree pending the appeal. Under the present ordinance the time in all these cases is extended to thirty days.

No. 2. 11th January. This ordinance establishes a system in registration of births and deaths in this Colony. The object is to obtain accurate statistics of the population, its increase or decrease, and the causes of death in every case. Its provisions are mainly taken from the St. Vincent Act, which was taken from the Antigua Act, which again was modelled upon the Imperial Statute on the subject.

No. 3. 19th March. This is the ordinary supplementary Appropriation Ordinance; the amount covered by it is 778*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

No. 4. 9th April. This ordinance is an important one, as it affects the administration of justice among the people. Hitherto appeals from the district Courts of Requests (which have jurisdiction in civil matters up to 15*l.*) were heard before the Chief Justice sitting in the Royal Court at Castries once a month. Suitors and witnesses were therefore, to their great inconvenience, brought from all parts of the Island, and cases were not unfrequently postponed from one sitting to another, sometimes more than once. To remedy these evils, power is given in this ordinance to the Governor to create a tribunal of appeal by proclamation under the Great Seal, and to appoint a Commissioner to be Judge of the Court, who shall sit once a month at Castries, once in every two months at Soufrière, and at least once in every three months at Vieuxfort, to hear appeals from the Courts of Requests and of Petty Sessions. The constitution of the Courts of Requests is also modified; instead of consisting of two special justices and one or more justices of the peace, the special justice for the district sits alone.

No. 5. 19th June. This ordinance provides for the appointment of an acting chief justice in certain cases which are not clearly met by the Order in Council of the 20th June, 1831. They are as follows:—Whenever the Chief Justice shall be a party, plaintiff or defendant, to any cause or suit depending before the Royal Court or any other court over which he shall preside, or shall otherwise be interested, or be of affinity to any party, plaintiff or defendant, in any case, cause, or suit; whenever he shall by reason of illness be unable to attend his duties in court; and whenever he shall be absent from the Island on circuit.

No. 6. 19th June. The object of this ordinance was to introduce the ticket-of-leave system into this Colony. In consequence, however, of a report upon it by Colonel

ST. LUCIA. Henderson, C.B., it has since been repealed and another ordinance on the same subject has been passed this year.

No. 7. 13th August. This is the annual tax and Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 8. 22nd September. A large number of Coolies having commuted their claim to a back passage by taking bounty under the ordinance of last year, the funds were insufficient to pay the expenses of those who had elected to return to India. Under the ordinance the Governor is authorized to borrow 2,500*l.* for this purpose, and for future expenses of a similar nature.

Prisoners.

14. There is a very marked diminution in the commitments from the magistrates' courts last year as compared with 1867. The total number of prisoners (including those committed for trial) during the year was only 291, and in 1867, 592. From inquiries which I have made as to the cause of this falling off, I am led to believe that it is partly due to the more irksome penal discipline introduced into the gaol last year. "Shot drill" has been introduced to a limited extent, and the short-time prisoners, besides being subjected to this exercise, are employed entirely within the precincts of the prison instead of being placed in the "hard labour gang" on the roads, dredge, and other public works; I also attribute the reduction in the number to the plan pursued by one at least of the Special Justices of fining for trifling offences an amount which the offender is able to pay, instead of fixing so high a sum that he is obliged to go to gaol for want of means to satisfy the penalty. There may be, and no doubt are, many other causes for the appreciable difference in the criminal statistics of the two years. Whatever they are, the fact of there being such a decrease must be regarded as very satisfactory.

Agriculture.

15. The crop of 1868 was the largest made for a great many years, and fortunately for planters the prices of the sugar market were remunerative. Owing to the unusual drought which has prevailed throughout the West Indies during the latter part of the year and up to the present time, it is feared that there will be a considerable decrease this year, although not a bad average return.

The following table shows the quantity of produce exported for the last five years. The small quantity of rum is due to its being nearly all consumed in the Colony instead of being shipped.

Years.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Cocoa.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	Galls.	Galls.	lbs.	lbs.
1864 -	8,110,025	126,900	2,070	221,759	18,296
1865 -	8,597,146	119,900	16,638	289,097	11,390
1866 -	10,942,733	147,200	5,981	192,885	8,138
1867 -	9,626,380	175,100	10,102	286,170	6,437
1868 -	11,118,829	191,400	2,058	258,799	600

Contrasting the return of last year with that of 1866, which was the next largest crop, we find that in 1866 the export of sugar was as follows:—

	Hds.	Trcs.	Brls.
1866 - - - -	7,176	1,345	6,528
1868 - - -	7,434	1,042	6,502

The difference in favour of the latter year is about 100 hogsheads.

Education.

16. The following table gives the results of the schools receiving Government aid. The grant made to the Mico Schools was 512*l.*, and the total expenditure on them 1,542*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.* 512*l.* was placed at the disposal of the Roman Catholic Committee, and distributed by them in nearly the same proportions as the previons year.

The considerable assistance received from the trustees of the Mico charity raises the expenditure on education to a very respectable amount; last year it was 2,042*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.*

School.	No. on List 1867.	Boys.	Girls.	No. on List 1868.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance in 1867.	Average Attendance in 1868.	Grant in 1867.	Grant in 1868.
ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.									£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Castries (Convent) School	322	—	322	306	—	306	310	275	109 5 0	107 0 0
Do. (Adult) do.	126	126	—	128	128	—	63	70	141 0 0	137 0 0
Do. (Infant) do.	95	95	—	72	72	—	56	*		
Soufrière (Convent) do.	130	—	130	121	—	121	†	87	95 0 0	90 0 0
Micoud‡ do.	93	53	40	74	36	38	67	46	61 15 0	60 0 0
Dennery do.	100	73	27	107	72	35	75	71	57 0 0	56 0 0
Gros Ilet do.	94	44	50	84	42	42	33§	30‖	55 0 0	50 0 0
Total	960	391	569	892	350	542	—	—	519 0 0	500 0 0
MICO SCHOOLS.										
Castries School	101	101	—	130	130	—	66	72		
Do. (Infant) School	98	67	31	104	104	32	62	90		
Soufrière do.	145	119	26	178	146	32	80	96		
Do (Infant) do.	85	62	23	100	70	30	55	60		
Ansela Raye do.	45	40	5	43	39	4	21	24		
Choiseuil do.	85	61	24	90	64	26	54	58	519 0 0	500 0 0
Laborie do.	103	63	40	111	71	40	70	71		
River Dorée do.	84	52	32	89	59	30	50	60		
Vieuxfort do.	113	67	46	116	66	50	75	80		
Micoud do.	57	44	13	89	57	32	30	54		
Gros Ilet do.	44	39	5	91	58	33	29	53		
Total	960	715	245	1,177	864	309	592	718	519 0 0	500 0 0

* No Average stated. † Not stated. ‡ The Micoud School was closed in October. § and ‖ Average of Girls only.

Immigration.

17. The number of Coolies has been diminished by the return of 298 to India in November by the 'Lincelles.' There were embarked in her 180 men, 56 women, 23 boys, 12 girls, and 27 infants, at a cost to the Colony of about 3,600*l.* They deposited in the Treasury savings amounting to 2,397*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, which sum has been transmitted to the Protector of Immigrants at Calcutta. 425 Coolies have commuted their claim to a back passage by the receipt of bounty. Under this head 3,097*l.* have been expended; offers were made to them to take part money and part Government land, but in no one instance did they avail themselves of them. There still remain 86 who have as yet neither claimed a back passage or bounty, and next year there will be 220 more (the immigrants by the 'Ulysses'), who will then have completed an eight years' residence and will be entitled to either the one or the other. The reports which the magistrates make of the condition of the immigrants continue to be very favourable. The Immigration Agency has been discontinued since the shipment by the 'Lincelles.'

Miscellaneous.

18. The general health of the Colony has been and continues good. As an instance that St. Lucia is making some progress, I would mention that a Company has been formed to run a steamer coastwise, for the conveyance of passengers and freight. Communication of this nature had been carried on rather irregularly in 1867 and the early part of the year, but it is expected that it will soon be renewed under better management. The Colony has pledged itself to give a subsidy of 250*l.* per annum towards this enterprise. The harbour of Castries is still used as the port of transshipment of the Royal Mail Steamers on the southern route.

I have &c.,

Governor Rawson, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. M. GRANT.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir B. C. C. PINE, to The Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 214.)

MY LORD, Leeward Islands, Antigua, October 8, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Island for 1868, together with a carefully prepared report thereon by Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE, Governor-in-Chief Leeward Islands.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1868.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
1. The revenue of 1868, including the land tax raised for the maintenance of the Church establishment, was -	40,073	19	1½
Balance in hand from 1867 - - - - -	4,562	12	2½
Loans raised in aid of revenue - - - -	6,340	13	1½
Total - - - - -	£50,977	4	5½

	£	s.	d.
2. The expenditure on account of establishments, including the pay of the clergy, was - - - - -	34,342	8	7
Arrears of expenditure of 1867 paid in 1868 - -	2,376	14	5
Paid in liquidation of loan from H.M. Government - -	6,000	0	0
Invested to meet waterworks debentures - - -	1,000	0	0
Paid on account of debt to savings bank - - -	646	0	0
Local loan - - - - - - -	60	0	0
Interest on public debt - - - - -	2,364	5	2
Total - - - - -	£46,789	8	2

Leaving an apparent balance in favour of the revenue of 4,187*l.* 8*s.* 3½*d.* This balance was however, after the payment of salaries and other charges for the last month of the year, reduced to 1242*l.*

3. The returns show, on comparison with those for 1867, a decrease in the import duty of 1779*l.*, in the record tax of 360*l.*; and an increase in the excise duty of 450*l.*, in the export duty of 1,062*l.*, in the carriage tax of 303*l.*

The excise duty was raised in October, 1868, from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, and the wheel tax, which was hitherto levied exclusively on job-carts, was this year imposed on all wheels not used for agricultural purposes, and the trade tax was reimposed.

4. The expenditure shows an increase under the heads of repayment of loans and of interest.

5. Measures for equalizing the revenue and expenditure have been in progress during the last five or six years. In 1863 the salaries of the members of the Administrative Committee were abolished, by which a saving of 750*l.* per annum was effected. In 1864 the salary of the Puisne Justice was reduced from 400*l.* to 200*l.* In 1865 the office of Coroner was united to that of Police Magistrate, with a saving of 200*l.* per annum. Considerable retrenchment in the expenditure has been made since the passing of the

new constitution. In 1866, during the temporary administration of Governor Sir Benjamin Pine, an Act was passed for the further reduction of the expenditure; by the operation of this measure a saving of nearly 800*l.* per annum has already been effected, viz.:—

	£
Provost Marshal's salary reduced by - -	200
Keeper of the Court House - - - -	24
Two Mahosses abolished - - - -	54
Treasury Accountant abolished - - - -	300
Sergeant-at-Arms abolished - - - -	100
Secretary to Administrative Committee abolished -	100

In 1868 further retrenchments were made, viz.:—

	£
Office of Third Magistrate abolished - -	225
Two Police Clerks abolished - - - -	100
Reduction in stipends of Curates for St. Philip and St. Mary - - - - - -	200
Reduction in pay of Officers under Medical Relief Act - - - - - - -	155
Reduction in grant to Board of Health - -	300
Reduction in cost of Police establishment - -	200
Other reductions - - - - -	420
Total - - -	£1,600

The revenue was at the same time augmented by the imposition of the additional taxes specified in Paragraph 3.

6. Provision was also made for the gradual liquidation of the public debt, and a sinking fund created for the extinction of the savings-bank debt.

7. The advantages arising from these endeavours to retrieve the Colony from its financial difficulties have already been manifested. The revenue of 1869 will be sufficient to meet all the demands against it, and to extinguish 4,000*l.* of the public debt, and to pay about 3,500*l.* for interest on the debt. This will be accomplished by the taxation raised in the year, including a sum of 598*l.*, raised under the authority of the Local Loan Act.

8. The public debt in 1863 was 31,306*l.* But since that period the Colony has expended the large sum of 30,000*l.* on the construction of the St. John's waterworks, and over 1,000*l.* on the establishment of an extramural cemetery within a short distance from St. John's.

9. The principal item of revenue is the import duty, which yields more than one-half of the entire revenue. The proceeds of this tax have however, owing to the great commercial depression which has prevailed in the Colony ever since the severe droughts of 1863 and 1864, fallen very considerably below the former averages.

The following is a return of the import duties for the last 10 years:—

Year.	Duty.	Average.
1859	23,109	
1860	27,931	
1861	25,631	26,082
1862	28,098	
1863	25,641	
1864	19,915	
1865	18,577	
1866	22,441	20,836
1867	22,515	
1868	20,733	

Nearly 50 per cent. of the import duty is levied on articles of food. During the year the duty on salt beef and salt pork was lowered from 10*s.* 5*d.* to 5*s.* 2½*d.* per 100 lbs., and a slight additional duty was imposed on tobacco, malt, wines, and spirits, in order to compensate the revenue for the reduction. Salted meats, salted and dried fish, flour,

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and cornmeal, the principal articles of food of the mass of the people, contribute 8,170*l.*, or more than one-fifth of the gross revenue of the Colony.

10. The subjoined return shows the duty levied on the principal articles of import.

ARTICLES OF FOOD.

Articles.	Rate.	Value. £	s.	d.	Duty. £	s.	d.
Bread and Biscuit	2/– per 100 lbs.	1,917	0	0	234	7	0
Beef and Pork	½*d.* per lb.	8,462	10	0	1,494	4	8
Butter	–/1 „	2,355	4	2	318	13	5
Coffee	„ „	894	0	0	151	6	4
Cocoa	„ „	431	0	0	90	11	0
Cheese	„ „	1,006	4	1	126	4	1
Fish (dried)	1/– per quintal	10,184	0	6	736	13	1½
Fish (pickled)	2/– per barrel	4,151	15	0	443	8	1½
Flour	5/– „	28,222	11	3	3,921	11	3
Hams	–/1 per lb.	1,353	3	4	190	17	4
Lard	„ „	440	0	0	27	10	0
Meal Corn	2/– per barrel	13,929	5	0	1,575	0	0
Peas and Beans	–/3 per bushel	578	0	0	36	4	4
Potatoes	1/6 per barrel	280	18	8	61	3	1½
Rice	2/– per 100 lbs.	2,563	8	9	403	10	0
Sugar (refined)	–/1 per lb.	619	0	0	69	1	8
Tea	–/4 „	465	16	0	93	2	1
	Total	£77,853	16	9	9,973	7	6½
Ale and Beer	2*l.* per tun.	534	0	0	92	3	9
Ditto	–/9 per doz. quart bottles.	914	18	0	134	10	1¾
Brandy	3/4 per gall.	2,415	18	0	686	18	6½
Gin and other Spirits	2/6 „	613	10	9	491	6	0
Spirits Sweetened	5/– „	16	0	0	13	0	0
Wines	20 % ad valorem	1,582	9	7	306	3	1
	Total	£6,076	16	4	1,724	1	6¼

TOBACCO, &c.

Cigars	–/4 per lb., and	20	8	0	2	7	0
Tobacco, manufactured	10 % ad valorem.	77	14	0	6	14	7
Tobacco, leaf	–/4 per lb.	2,223	16	6	1,392	1	3
		£2,321	18	6	1,401	2	10
White Pine	8/4 per 1000 ft.	2,213	17	8	384	7	1
Pitch Pine	12/6 „	1,145	15	5	179	0	6
Shingles Cypress	4/2 per M.	1,282	8	2	201	15	0
„ Cedar	2/1 „	275	6	0	79	12	9
Wood Hoops	5/– „	1,631	0	0	81	4	0
Staves	10/5 „	1,295	12	0	160	0	8
Shooks	–/9 a pack	886	4	0	207	15	8
	Total	£8,730	3	3	1,293	15	8
Non-enumerated Articles	6% ad valorem	54,591	13	6	4,094	7	6

A further rate of 25 per cent. on these duties is also levied.

11. The land tax is levied exclusively for the maintainance of the clergy of the Established Church.

12. The rate of assessment, the total amount raised, and the cost of the ecclesiastical establishment for each parish are shown below :—

Parish.	Assessment on Land.	Assessment on Houses.	Total amount raised.
			£ s. d.
St. John	-/11½ per acre	1¾ per cent.	1,018 1 11½
St. Philip	1/1 „	—	464 8 6
St. George	1/10 cultivated, -/9 uncultivated	—	378 16 1
St. Paul	1/2 cultivated, -/9 uncultivated	2½ per cent.	454 18 5½
St. Peter	1/5½ per acre	2½ „	365 15 11½
St. Mary	-/6¾ „	Houses taxed at 3/- each	386 6 3
			£3,268 7 2½

	St. John.	St. Philip.	St. George.	St. Paul.	St. Peter.	St. Mary.	Total.
FIXED.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rector	500 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	2000 0 0
Clerk	65 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	65 0 0
Sexton	70 0 0	16 8 0	—	20 0 0	16 0 0	13 0 0	135 8 0
Organist	70 0 0	45 0 0	4 16 0	16 0 0	40 0 0	5 0 0	180 16 0
Bellows-blower	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	10 0 0
Church Keeper	20 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	20 0 0
Pound Keeper	4 10 0	—	—	—	—	4 0 0	8 10 0
Beadles	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	10 0 0
Clock Keeper	45 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	45 0 0
Clerk of Vestries	40 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0	150 0 0
SPECIAL.							
Choir	12 0 0	—	—	—	4 16 0	—	16 16 0
Summoning Freeholders	3 4 0	4 0 0	—	1 8 0	1 9 4	2 0 0	12 1 4
Serving Accounts	6 13 4	2 10 0	4 3 4	3 15 0	3 10 0	3 13 4	24 5 0
St. James' Chapel	18 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	18 0 0
St. Luke's ditto	23 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	23 0 0
Freeman School	—	—	—	—	12 0 0	—	12 0 0
To Rector	—	—	—	15 0 0	50 0 0	—	65 0 0
„ for House-rent	—	—	45 0 0	—	60 0 0	—	105 0 0
To Curate	—	25 0 0	—	—	—	—	25 0 0
Repairs to Church, Rectory, &c.	—	44 10 6	—	50 0 0	8 0 0	—	102 10 6
INCIDENTAL.							
Casualties	100 0 0	—	—	—	10 0 0	5 0 0	115 0 0
Sacrament	—	5 0 0	7 0 0	9 0 0	—	8 0 0	29 0 0
Cleaning Churchyard	—	—	—	4 0 0	—	—	4 0 0
Register Book of Marriages	—	—	1 10 0	—	—	—	1 10 0
Total	£997 7 4	464 8 6	384 9 4	441 3 0	527 15 4	362 13 4	3177 16 10

13. Three curates for St. John's, and the incumbent for All Saints' district, at 225*l.* each, and two curates, one for St. Mary's, the other for St. Philip's, at 50*l.* each, are paid from the general revenue of the Colony.

14. The total cost of the ecclesiastical establishment is 4177*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Public Debt.

15. Due to Her Majesty's Government for balance on earthquake loan

	£	s.	d.
Due to holders of market debentures	1,500	0	0
Due to holders of local debentures	1,940	13	10
Due to immigration fund	4,260	0	0
Treasury notes for 1*l.* each	6,301	6	5
Due to savings bank	2,000	0	0
Due on waterworks	11,073	3	0
	30,000	0	0
	57,075	3	3
Less amount invested for waterworks sinking fund	3,500	0	0
	£53,575	3	3

Provision has been made for the extinction of the debt due to the savings bank by the investment of 1,000*l.* per annum. The Treasury notes will be retired in 1869 and 1870.

ANTIGUA. and the balance due to Her Majesty's Government will be discharged in 1869. Provision has also been made for paying off the market and local loans in five equal annual instalments. The debentures to the Immigration Commissioners will fall due in the years 1872, 1873, 1874, and 1875.

Legislation.

16. Of the 42 Acts passed during the year, seven relate to the administration of justice, viz.:—

The Act for transferring the duties of Secretary of the Court of Appeal from the Colonial Secretary to the Registrar of the Courts.

The Act for adopting the provisions of the English Common Law Procedure Acts, and of the statute relating to the mode of recovering small debts.

The Act for removing certain defects in the administration of criminal justice.

The Treason Felony Act.

The Act to amend the Treason Felony Act.

The Act for appointing District Magistrates. This Act abolishes the office of Third Police Magistrate, and the offices of Clerks to the Country Magistrates.

The Act for the reduction of expenses attending the employment of constables at the Court of Queen's Bench.

17. Fifteen relate to finance, viz.:—

The Act to impose an excise duty on rum.

The Act to provide for the better collection of the excise duty on rum.

The former of these Acts increases the excise duty from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. The latter establishes a better system of collection, and authorizes the appointment of an excise officer. The provision of the old Act, which exempted rum consumed on the plantation on which it was manufactured from duty, has been repealed.

The Act to levy a tax on certain wheeled vehicles. The tax on wheels was hitherto levied exclusively on job-carts and carriages let for hire. The tax has now been extended to all vehicles except such as are used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

The Act for continuing the Liquor Licence Act in force for a further period of three years.

Two Acts for raising loans from the immigration fund.

The Import Duty Act.

The Escheat Act.

The Waterworks Amendment Act. This measure provides for the more efficient collection of the water-rates.

The Act to amend the law relating to the collection of the parish taxes. This Act transfers the duty of preparing the tax rolls from the six vestries of the island, to an officer called the Clerk of Vestries. This officer is also charged with the collection of the parish taxes.

The usual Annual Revenue Acts.

18. Two Acts relate to the Church establishment of the Colony.

The first Act continues for a further period of three years, from the 25th May, 1868, the provisions made under a former Act for the maintenance of three curates for the city and parish of St. John, at a salary of 225*l.* each.

The second Act authorizes the appointment of a curate for each of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Philip at an annual stipend of 50*l.* The former salary was 150*l.* to each curate. A saving of 200*l.* has been effected by this measure. This Act will expire on the 16th October, 1870.

19. Of the remaining Acts the following are the most important:—

The Medical Relief Act. A system of affording gratuitous medical relief and medicines to all poor and destitute persons, and to all labourers of over 60 years of age, and to children under 10 years, of labourers, and of attending all labourers at a moderate tariff of charges to be fixed by the Governor in Council, has been in operation since 1860. The present Act continues the system until July, 1869.

The Act for establishing a better system of registration of births, marriages, and deaths.

The Vaccination Act. This Act is based on the English Statute 30 & 31 Vic., cap. 84.

The Act to establish a Board of Health.

The Act to continue the Education Act.

The Road Act.

The St. John's Savings Bank Act. This Act provides for the creation of a sinking fund for the extinction of the debt due to the institution by the Colonial Treasury.

Political Franchise.

20. There are 11 electoral districts in the Island, with 428 registered voters, who return 12 members to the Legislative Council.

21. There is scarcely sufficient material in this Colony for the continuance of the present representative system, as the following statement will show:—

3	members	are returned for	2	districts by 270	registered voters.
4	"		4	" 121	"
3	"		3	" 22	"
1	"		1	" 14	"
1	"		1	" 1	"
12			11	428	

Population.

22. The population of the Colony is estimated at about 36,642.

23. The returns of the Registrar-General for the year 1868 show that there has been a decrease in the population of about 142, the number of births registered being 1,375, whilst the number of registered deaths was 1517.

24. Of the total births, 872, or nearly 64 per cent., were illegitimate; 187, or 1 in every 7·35, were still-born. Of the 503 legitimate births, 50, or 1 to every 10·06, were still-born. Of the 872 illegitimate births, 137, or 1 to every 6·36, were still-born.

25. The centesimal proportion of deaths to the total population, according to the classification of ages, is as follows:—

1 year and under	36·25
Over 1 and under 14	12·4
Adults	51·35

26. The birth-rate to the total population was 3·75 per cent., and the death-rate 4·11 per cent.

Education.

27. Fifty-two schools were in receipt of government aid, viz.:—22 Church of England, 21 Moravian, and 9 Wesleyan. The number of scholars on the books was 3,438; the average attendance was 1,774.

Savings Bank.

28. The management and control of the saving's bank, is by a recent Act vested in the Auditor-General. The great confidence reposed in this institution is shown by the annual increase in the number of depositors.

29. Interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. is payable on all deposits made before the 23rd December, 1868. The interest on deposits made after that date, where the sum does not exceed 30*l.* is fixed at 4½ per cent., but where the deposit is over 30*l.* the interest is only 3 per cent.

30. The following is a return showing the transactions of the savings bank in 1862.

Receipts.				Payments.		
£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
6,084	2	9	Depositors	4,438	4	4
727	4	0	Treasury	1,600	0	0
5,851	5	10	Colonial Bank	6,542	9	3
—			Expense account, salary of Cashier, &c.	81	19	0
£ 12,662	12	7	Total £	12,662	12	7

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Imports and Exports.

31. The following return gives a comparative statement of the value of the imports and exports during the last five years.

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
	£	£
1864	171,589	80,833
1865	160,571	192,632
1866	187,704	291,860
1867	189,880	141,076
1868	169,900	273,706

The import shows a decrease in value of 20,980*l.*, the exports an increase of 132,630*l.*

32. The following table gives a return of the staple exports.

Year.	Sugar.	Cotton
	Hds.	lbs.
1864	3,354	26,000
1865	9,882	112,224
1866	17,300	590,091
1867	7,051	576,775
1868	12,682	649,295

33. *Shipping.*

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1864	478	22,532	503	20,492
1865	445	22,692	448	23,351
1866	418	29,564	419	28,498
1867	426	23,852	315	20,054
1868	454	26,784	472	28,829

Crime.

34. The total number of persons committed during the year was 822, showing a decrease of 57 as compared with 1867.

The Colony enjoys a comparative freedom from serious offences against the person or against the public peace.

Offences against property are unfortunately very rife.

35. The number of summary convictions was 2,981, being 572 less than in the previous year. The convictions by the Court of Queen's Bench show an increase of 17 over those of 1867.

36. The following return gives the number of convictions for the last ten years.

Year.	Summary Convictions.	Convictions by Court of Queen's Bench.
1859	3,696	48
1860	2,882	49
1861	2,148	34
1862	2,638	40
1863	2,749	55
1864	4,431	58
1865	3,449	39
1866	3,298	41
1867	3,553	43
1868	2,981	60

I have &c.,
(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President PYNE to Governor Sir Benjamin C. C. PINE.

(No. 146.)

SIR, Government House, Plymouth, Montserrat, May 26, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868. There is no marked variation between the statistics supplied in the several tables of information from those of the preceding year.

2. While there was an increase of the revenue amounting to 945*l.*, there was a corresponding addition to the expenditure of 946*l.* The latter was caused by the special expenses incurred in the repair of the public buildings, which are now completely restored. The current expenditure was, if anything, rather below that of the previous year. On the 31st of December, 1868, instead of the chronic deficit of former years, there was a balance in the Treasury of over 300*l.*

The excess of the country's liabilities over assets stood at 2,330*l.* against 3,509*l.* of the previous year, being a reduction of 1,179*l.*

3. The most important undertaking accomplished during 1868 was a complete revision and consolidation of the laws of the Island, which had grown into a hopeless state of confusion. The administration of justice, rendered difficult from the fact that even the mere construction of the judicial machinery required a reference to twenty different Acts, some of which were more than a hundred years old.

The following Acts were passed by the Legislature during the year :—

No. 1 of 1868. "An Ordinance for appointing an Auditor of Public Accounts."

No. 2 of 1868. "An Ordinance to impose a duty upon certain articles imported into this Island."

No. 3 of 1868. "An Ordinance to grant to Her Majesty a tax or duty upon certain articles exported from this Island."

No. 4 of 1868. "An Ordinance to amend an Act entitled An Act to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the care of the poor and lunatics."

No. 5 of 1868. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the statute law of Montserrat relating to malicious injuries to property."

No. 6 of 1868. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the statute laws of Montserrat relating to offences against the person."

No. 7 of 1868. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the statute law of Montserrat relating to larceny and other similar offences."

No. 8 of 1868. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the statute law of Montserrat relating to accessories to and abettors of indictable offences."

No. 9 of 1868. "An Ordinance to repeal certain enactments which have been consolidated in several Ordinances relating to indictable offences and other matters."

No. 11 of 1868. "An Ordinance to impose an excise duty on rum entered for consumption in the Island of Montserrat, and to make provision for levying the said duty."

No. 12 of 1868. "An Ordinance to impose a tax upon all horses, mares, geldings, colts, and fillies."

No. 13 of 1868. "An Ordinance to grant to Her Majesty a tax upon the value of estates, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in this Island."

No. 14 of 1868. "An Ordinance to permit and regulate appeals from the convictions, orders, judgments, and adjudications of Justices of the Peace in the Island of Montserrat."

No. 15 of 1868. "An Ordinance for the trial and punishment of certain treasonable offences."

No. 16 of 1868. "An Ordinance to amend the Tariff Ordinance No. 2 of 1868."

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No. 17 of 1868. "An Ordinance for the summary punishment of riotous and disorderly conduct."

No. 18 of 1868. "An Ordinance to amend an Act entitled An Act to amend and simplify the Legislature of the Island of Montserrat."

No. 19 of 1868. "An Ordinance for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues, or other vagrants in this Island."

No. 20 of 1868. "An Ordinance to amend the Registration of Deeds Act, 1866."

No. 21 of 1868. "An Ordinance to remove some defects in the administration of the criminal law."

No. 22 of 1868. "An Ordinance to make compulsory and to provide for the practice of vaccination."

No. 23 of 1868. "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the care of the poor and lunatics."

No. 24 of 1868. "An Ordinance for compiling and printing a new edition of the laws of Montserrat."

No. 25 of 1868. "An Ordinance to provide for the payment of sundry current expenses of the Colony included in the estimates for the year 1869."

It will be seen that most of them had reference to the criminal code, which has been entirely remodelled.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. R. PYNE,
President.

Sir Benjamin C. C. Pine,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government, to the Governor-in-Chief, Antigua.

(No. 163.)

SIR, Government House, Basseterre, St. Christopher, September 11, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1868, together with the Government Secretary's report thereon.

It will be seen that whatever changes in the nature of improvements remain to be effected, the Island continues to prosper.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. W. CAIRNS.

The Governor-in-Chief, Antigua,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE ST. CHRISTOPHER BLUE BOOK FOR 1868.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony is derived from import, export, and tonnage duties, from a licence for the sale of spirituous liquors, a game licence, watermen and porters' licences, magisterial fines, forfeitures, post-office receipts, grammar-school fees, and miscellaneous items; and this year, from the sale of land over and above that which was purchased and used by the Commissioners appointed after the fire of 1867, for the improvement of the town of Basseterre.

Under the respective heads of service the following sums have been received:—

Heads of Service.	For purposes of General Revenue.	For the Improvement of the Town of Basseterre.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import duties	15,239 3 6	3,796 2 9
Tonnage on exports	1,594 10 1	—
Export duties	2,910 18 6	713 11 7
Cavalry tax	2,527 18 9	—
Inward tonnage and package dues	1,748 3 11	—
Liquor licences	2,260 0 0	565 0 0
Game licences	5 0 0	—
Dog licences	52 1 8	—
Boatmen and porters' licences	45 16 8	—
Land sold	—	551 12 9
Fines and forfeitures	1,108 0 4	—
Post Office	206 3 6	—
Grammar school fees	148 0 0	—
Miscellaneous	424 16 10	—
	28,270 13 9	5,626 7 1

making a total of 33,897*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

It will be observed that the amount raised under the import duties, constitutes more than 50 per cent. of the entire ordinary revenue, the necessaries of life producing nearly one-third of this large sum; an analysis of these figures will be interesting:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flour	2,250 13 6	
Bread	42 16 6	
Meal	163 17 1	
Dried fish	505 18 5	
Pickled fish	183 13 4	
Peas	37 12 0	
Pork	444 8 11½	
Refined sugar	102 11 8	
Sugar	37 9 3	
Rice	233 4 0	
Cheese	122 16 2	
Coffee	71 19 7	
Cocoa	35 13 9	
Dried fruit	16 18 7	
Hams	45 11 6	
Beef, salted	58 13 8	
Tongues	9 16 8½	
Butter	283 0 2	
Lard	45 18 8	
Vinegar	4 6 8	
Making a total of over one-fourth of the sum raised under the import duties, say		4,697 0 2

The other articles of import yielded the following amounts:—

Corn and oats	209 7 7½	
Soap and candles	441 17 9½	
Live stock	179 13 9	
Lumber, staves, and shingles	2,203 19 1	
Wine, spirits, beer, &c.	843 9 4	
Tobacco and cigars	410 17 10	
		4,289 5 5
The ad-valorem duty of 8 per cent. on silk, linen, cotton, and woollen manufactures, jewellery, boots and shoes, ironmongery, saddlery, glass ware, cutlery, &c., &c., producing the balance of import duty of		6,252 17 11
And making a grand total of		£15,239 3 6

ST. KITTS.

The other sources of revenue comprise export taxes, viz. an export tonnage payable by the master of each vessel of 2*s.* per hogshead on sugar, 1*s.* 6*d.* per puncheon on rum and molasses, and smaller packages in like proportion.

An export duty of 4*s.* 2*d.* per hogshead on sugar, 2*s.* 1*d.* per puncheon on rum, 1*s.* 0½*d.* per puncheon on molasses, and other packages in like proportion, with an additional 25 per cent.

Upon the proceeds of the original act, the clergy of the Established or Anglican Church have the first lien, the extra collection of 25 per cent. being applied to the improvement of the town of Basseterre.

An export duty of 4*s.* 2*d.* per hogshead, tierces and barrels in proportion, for military purposes. This is repaid to the planters in the shape of drawbacks or allowances for furnishing troopers, who must attend certain regulation drills. The annual amount paid is 25*l.* for the cavalry for each trooper, and 30*l.* per man for the horse artillery.

The tonnage duty is at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton, vessels with partial cargoes being admitted to entry upon the payment of a package duty, election of duty being made at time of entry.

The liquor licences are of two classes:—

To retail rum in quantities less than 50 gallons, together with wine, beer, brandy, &c.

	£	
In Basseterre	60	per annum
In other towns	45	„
In other places	35	„

To retail wine, beer, brandy, &c., exclusive of rum, in less quantities than 30 gallons.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
In Basseterre	10	0	0	per annum
In other towns	7	10	0	„
In other places	5	0	0	„
The other licences are—				
For dogs	0	8	4	„
For game	1	0	0	„
For porters	0	4	2	„
For boatmen	0	4	2	„

The 25 per cent. additional duty was imposed in 1867 to raise funds for the special purpose of improving the town of Basseterre, by the introduction of a reliable and abundant supply of water for sanitary purposes and as a safeguard against fire, for widening the old, and adding new, streets, and has yielded the sum of 5,626*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

The present Act expires in 1870, but it may be deemed advisable to continue it for one or two years longer. The objects for which the Act was passed once attained, its imposition will no longer be necessary, as the ordinary revenue exceeds the ordinary expenditure, and the increased receipts under the tariff during the year may fairly be taken as indicative of improved trade, which an abundant harvest next year would stimulate to still further development.

The expenditure of the Colony was 30,519*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, and may be thus enumerated:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil Establishment	3,650	0	6
Judicial	1,736	0	0
Ecclesiastical	2,128	12	8
Education	450	0	0
Medical	1,400	0	0
Police	1,630	0	0
Fire Company	279	14	11
Cun. Hospital	355	0	0
Pensions	301	12	7
Education (exclusive of Establishment)	857	10	9
Hospital „	1,767	6	4
Police and Gaols „	1,572	12	6
Rent	45	18	0
Works and Buildings	1,373	10	1
Roads	1,984	12	6

	£	s.	d.
Miscellaneous - - - - -	766	9	9
Improvement of town of Basseterre - -	7,374	18	8
Sanitary and Registration - - -	593	0	10
Militia - - - - - - -	2,252	16	10
	£30,519	16	11

The expenditure on behalf of the improvement of the town of Basseterre must be regarded as an altogether exceptional outlay.

The following table exhibits a comparative statement of the balances in hand, on the 31st December in each year, the amounts available for the service of the succeeding year after the payment of the outstanding salaries of the preceding year, the revenue and expenditure, for the past eight years:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Balance in hands of Treasurer.	Balance available for the Service of the succeeding Year.	REVENUE.					Expenditure.
			Imports.	EXPORTS.		Other Sources.	Total Revenue.	
				Export paid by Shipper.	Export paid by Ship.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1861	10,353	3,816	12,080	2,329	1,308	4,565	20,282	21,433
1862	9,202	5,422	12,783	2,792	1,446	5,272	22,293	21,371
1863	10,123	5,614	10,701	4,719	1,497	5,055	21,972	22,154
1864	9,940	3,319	11,221	2,683	781	4,760	19,445	21,257
1865	8,129	5,436	12,127	5,804	1,731	5,414	25,076	22,259
1866	10,946	5,200	12,204	4,879	1,577	5,845	24,505	24,926
1867	10,525	6,384	14,695	4,467	1,393	5,764	26,319	26,093
1868	10,749	8,715	15,239	5,438	1,594	11,626	33,897	30,520

N.B.—The Balance in hand on the 31st December, 1868, was £14,126.

The fluctuations of the duties on exports are attributable solely to the variableness of the seasons, and their direct influences upon the growth and production of the cane. The 25 per cent. additional duty already noticed came into operation in the latter part of 1867, after the greater portion of the crop had been shipped.

In addition to the sources of revenue already commented on, a fund exclusively created and used for immigration purposes exists, the balance in hand of which amounted to 2,899*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* on the 31st December, 1868. This fund has been created by an export duty of 2*s.* 1*d.* per hogshead on sugar, 1*s.* 0½*d.* per puncheon on rum, and 6¼*d.* per puncheon on molasses. In consequence of the non-importation of immigrants for some time past, legislative enactment has relieved the planting interest of portions of this tax. In the present year 25 per cent. only has been levied.

Imports and Exports.

The following comparative tables illustrate the trade of the Colony since 1861:—

IMPORTS.

Years.	Goods liable to Specific Duty.	Goods liable to Ad-valorem Duty.	Goods admitted Free of Duty.	Total Value of Imports.
	£	£	£	£
1861 - -	68,181	55,382	13,375	136,938
1862 - -	95,777	56,522	14,573	166,872
1863 - -	89,448	51,882	10,560	151,890
1864 - -	129,137	46,617	12,915	188,669
1865 - -	76,977	60,729	13,688	151,394
1866 - -	87,610	76,270	13,695	177,575
1867 - -	87,148	76,988	13,188	177,324
1868 - -	99,836	80,574	18,293	198,703

An examination of the foregoing statistics will certainly afford satisfactory proof of the care and ability which have guided and controlled the finances throughout many years, and this notwithstanding the losses occasioned by droughts and fire-droughts

ST. KITTS. affecting all parts of the country, and a fire which all but destroyed the town as the centre of the island trade.

EXPORTS.

Years.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.			Tous les mois and Arrow-root.	Salt.	Pota-toes.	Other Produce Value.	Total Value of Exports the Produce of the Island.	Total Value of Exports not the Produce of the Island.	Total Value of all Exports.
												Sterling	Sterling.	Sterling.	Sterling.
	Hds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hds.	Puns.	Hds.	Brls.	Lbs.	Brls.	Brls.	£	£	£	£
1861	8,651	225	5,478	1,240	18	3,127	8	183	25,540	8,752	233	167	145,933	12,291	158,224
1862	9,765	14	6,444	1,404	20	3,127	—	273	15,168	6,616	275	173	159,836	16,121	175,957
1863	10,508	175	7,359	1,045	16	3,032	2	148	69,848	10,666	441	743	159,152	16,533	175,685
1864	5,188	220	4,776	321	15	1,850	—	12	118,420	23,207	1,458	1,523	110,953	14,455	125,408
1865	11,116	250	9,688	1,147	25	4,626	1	125	169,299	33,308	1,862	1,478	182,689	13,486	196,175
1866	11,022	299	6,770	862	12	3,582	2	124	58,008	32,774	2,520	794	152,922	20,469	173,391
1867	9,457	193	5,420	552	8	3,957	3	82	9,936	23,256	3,796	867	177,806	10,332	188,138
1868	10,914	529	6,130	556	28	4,142	—	75	30,463	12,211	3,075	692	197,949	24,763	222,712

Shipping.

Years.	With Cargoes.				In Ballast.				Total Tonnage.	
	Ships.		Tonnage.		Ships.		Tonnage.		Ships.	Tonnage.
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.		
1861	315	207	16,434	6,332	68	45	2,092	882	635	25,738
1862	344	184	17,927	7,145	81	53	4,418	378	662	29,868
1863	363	168	19,920	5,579	62	42	3,605	889	635	29,993
1864	338	130	15,279	4,642	100	54	3,883	1,255	622	25,059
1865	322	209	19,337	5,467	58	52	3,286	1,606	641	29,696
1866	292	293	20,230	5,524	108	50	5,580	1,149	743	32,483
1867	307	89	21,517	6,218	86	73	4,769	346	755	32,850
1868	301	337	21,462	6,512	78	98	5,298	1,786	814	35,058

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS ENTERED DURING THE YEAR 1868.

	Ships.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	42	11,351
Colonial	334	15,554
American	29	3,656
Danish	1	271
Dutch	237	1,647
French	37	161
Swedish	131	1,549
Mecklenburg	1	455
North German Confederation	1	249
Venezuela	1	165
	814	35,058

Fees.

No alteration has taken place in the fees of offices during the year. The Court of Chancery is closed against cases of minor importance; and legislation might well be directed to a revisal of its table of charges. The Registrar of Courts and the Marshal are the only officers whose salaries are partially paid by fees.

Public Debt.

There is no return to make under this head. Those entrusted with the management of the finances of the Colony have studiously avoided contracting loans, preferring that the exigencies of the day should be met by special taxation, a wholesome alternative, the

direct influence of which, in curtailing all unnecessary expenditure, was well calculated to bring about that healthy financial state which my figures exhibit, and to which the Colony may justly point with pride.

Legislation.

During the year 24 Acts have been passed, which may be classified and reported upon under the following heads:—

Judicial.—The Act No. 7, 1868, respecting the publication of judicial notices in the several newspapers of the Island, sanctions the publication of such notices in one newspaper, or by notice affixed to the Court House door, or on some conspicuous part of the several police stations.

Act No. 10, 1868, substitutes the Registrar of Antigua in lieu of the Colonial Secretary of that Island, and appoints the Provost Marshal of Antigua as Provost Marshal of the Court of Appeal.

Act No. 16, 1868, amends the law and practice in cases of escheat, extending the time of notice for the holding of an inquest from seven days to three months, and the time for parties claiming title to the premises in question to traverse such finding and file and serve such traverse from three to twelve months, and allowing twelve instead of three months to file and serve such traverse after the finding of any inquest in favour of the Crown.

Act No. 17, 1868, consolidates and amends the laws for the establishment of a Court for the more easy recovery of small debts. This Act extends the jurisdiction from 5*l.* to 20*l.*, and allows the levy on real as well as personal property.

Act No. 18, 1868, abolishes imprisonment for debts not exceeding 20*l.*, and provides for the maintenance of persons imprisoned for debt.

Act No. 19, 1868, assimilates the laws of the Colony respecting certain treasonable offences to the laws of the United Kingdom.

Fiscal.—Acts Nos. 2, 9, and 20, 1868, are appropriation Acts, providing the annual expenditure for branches of the service not sanctioned by permanent laws.

Act No. 6, 1868, remits three-fourths of the export duty raised for immigration purposes.

Municipal.—Act No. 1, 1868, repeals all laws relating to the Corporation and Town Council for the town of Basseterre, and makes other provision in lieu thereof. In 1861 it was deemed advisable "for promoting the good order, health, and general improve-"ment of the town of Basseterre," to allow the inhabitants of the town who were deemed best qualified, both by more intimate knowledge and direct interest, to establish a Corporation. In 1865 the Corporation was vested with increased powers. In 1867, upon the breaking out of the disastrous fire in Basseterre, the utter confusion and disorganization of the Municipality so completely unmasked the danger of divided responsibility in a small community, that the popular voice was loud in condemning a system which so signally failed in the time of need. The powers and authorities of Mayor and Council are now vested in the Governor. The Engineer of the Colony and an Overseer of Works have charge of the towns, streets, and roads. The Governor in Council passes, amends, and alters by-laws for the cleaning and good government of the towns.

Act No. 2, 1868, establishes a fire company, composed of eight men as a permanent staff, who, with forty-two supernumaries, are drilled monthly in working the engines and other connected duties.

Acts 5, 8, 13, and 15, 1868, authorize the raising of a loan for the rebuilding of the town and church of Basseterre, and for the general improvement of the said town. Nos. 5, 8, and 15, 1868, have not yet received the Royal assent.

Act No. 11, 1868, authorizes the exchange of a piece of land for the purpose of a site for a school for the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

Act No. 23, 1868, forbids the planting of canes within 100 feet of any building or erection within the limits of the town.

Medical.—Act No. 14, 1868, "provides medical attendance for the infant children of "the labouring population, and for the extension of such medical attendance to others "requiring the same." This Act divides the Island into seven districts, and provides for each district a resident medical man at 200*l.* per annum, whose duty it shall be to afford medical and surgical aid, and all medicines, for labourers' children under nine years of age, and to have all such children duly vaccinated, on the order of any Minister of religion or Justice of the Peace; to visit and afford medical and surgical aid and necessary medicines to any sick poor or destitute person desirous of admission into the

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hospital, until such person shall be in a condition fit for removal to such hospital, or to attend any case of midwifery; to attend the police, coroners' inquests, and in cases of sudden illness to attend without in any case demanding pre-payment.

Military.—Act No. 24, 1868, organizes a militia force, to be composed of a troop of cavalry and horse artillery.

Personal.—Act No. 22, 1868, provides a pension for the widow of a man who was killed while firing a salute from an island battery.

General.—Act No. 3, 1868, provides for the more effectual protection of Her Majesty's naval and victualling stores.

Anguilla.—Acts Nos. 12 and 21, 1868, define the ports of entry in Anguilla, and amend the law for the settlement of claims to land in that Island.

Pensions.

During the year two gentlemen died, Henry James Ross, Esq., late Chief Justice, and George Wattley, Esq., late Provost Marshal, both of whom were recipients of pensions. The amount now paid by the Colony under this head is reduced to 24*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* per annum.

Public Works.

The roads have been kept in good order at a cost of 1,920*l.*, and the arrangement by which the planters should keep the line of roads running through or along their properties in good order at a given rate per mile, according to classification, would seem to have worked well, although there is still some difference of opinion on this subject. The following sums have been expended in general repairs:—525*l.* on the public buildings, 90*l.* on the churches, 625*l.* on the various piers, and 40*l.* on the water-works. In view of the very heavy expenditure incurred in building and repairing the piers, it becomes a question whether shippers should not be required to contribute, by means of a small wharfage-fee, towards the cost of the continuance of an accommodation which is most valuable to those who avail themselves of it, but of which the advantage is felt by a very limited number of persons.

Civil Establishment.

The following alterations occurred in the civil list during the year. The Honourable Edward Herbert, Secretary to Government, resigned; the Treasurer, Mr. Hart, was provisionally appointed Secretary to Government; Mr. James George Piquenet was appointed Clerk to the Board of Health, *vice* Mr. Joseph K. Wattley, resigned.

Savings Bank.

There are only 12 depositors in the savings bank, whose limited deposits amount to 398*l.* 1*s.* The rate of interest allowed is 3 per centum.

Immigration.

The salary of the Immigration Agent is by law 50*l.* per annum, and the legislative grant in excess of such salary has been discontinued. A late report from this officer gives the following particluars respecting the immigrants now under indenture, &c., &c. He observes, "There are at present but 72 Portuguese, 50 liberated Africans, and 10 "Coolies under indenture.

"On allotting the immigrants, I gave them plain directions for their guidance, and "full information as to the provisions of the Immigration Act, and the privileges to "which they were entitled under it, and they were made aware of their right to come "to me in any case of oppression or difficulty.

"The climate of this Island being proverbially the best in the West Indies, the health "of the immigrants has therefore been all that could be desired. Moreover the "provision for having the services of a medical man and all hospital appliances "attached to each estate on which immigrants are located, has doubtless been highly "conducive to the preservation of the immigrants' health.

"Nine-tenths of our respectable and well-to-do shopkeepers are immigrants who "have served out their indentures here.

"Only one batch of 337 coolie immigrants has been imported here. When their "term of indenture expired, and they saw that there was no probability of further

" cargoes of their fellow-people being imported, a great exodus took place to Demerara " and Trinidad, whither they went to obtain, as their own importers, the liberal bounty " given by those Colonies on an indenture. Of these coolies some have found their " way back, and ten signed a second indenture for three years, on the payment to them " of 6*l.* 5*s.* each. Others are working on the estates here as free labourers, on the same " terms and with the same privileges as the native labourers.

" Only one cargo of 223 liberated Africans has come to this Island. They arrived " here in August, 1863, at a time when the operations of sugar making had ceased for " the year; I consequently had some difficulty in getting them readily allotted as " agricultural labourers. The Lieutenant-Governor therefore authorized me to so far " depart from the principle of the Immigration Act, as to allot such as were not taken " for the estates, as domestic servants, on payment of the full amount of bounty.

" This arrangement so far worked beneficially, that while the estates were thus " relieved from the incubus of juvenile immigrants, who for many years could scarcely " be of any service as agricultural labourers, the children have themselves been practically " great gainers. In no single instance could it have been possible for them to have " attained to the state of intelligence, cleanliness, education, and general improvement " at which they have since arrived, if they had been on their arrival allotted by me as " agricultural labourers agreeably to law.

" I regret that I cannot report equally favourably on the effect of the departure from " the principle of the law, as applied to the few adult Africans allotted as house servants; " these for the most part proved during the period of their indenture stubborn and " wilfully disobedient to their employers, with the avowed object of getting themselves " transferred to work on the estates as agricultural labourers, by which they would be " enabled to brutalize themselves at will with their fellow-country people. They con- " sequently chafed at the restraint put upon their actions and passions by household " duties, and did not behave as well as their employers expected they would have done, " when they were taken to occupy a better sphere in life than as field labourers.

" I have been led to believe that a cargo of Portuguese immigrants from Madeira is " shortly expected; there is still a considerable demand for imported labour, and should " these immigrants arrive, I shall be able to find them ready employment."

Paupers.

There is no poor-law allowance in the Colony. Liberal legislative provision has been made for gratuitous attendance on the destitute sick and on the children of labourers, both by district medical men as well as by means of admittance into the Cunningham Hospital. As the healthy and industrious can readily find work, and the sick are amply provided for, there is no necessity for poor-law relief, which in a neighbouring Colony has done much to foster idleness and destroy self-reliance.

Military.

Consists of a horse-artillery corps and 2 troops of cavalry, the strength of the former is 26 men, and of the latter 56 men. The horse-artillery corps has only lately been organized, but there is every reason to believe that the same efficiency will be attained by them as at present exists in the cavalry.

Education.

The amount expended for educational purposes during the year was 1,307*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, which was distributed in the following manner:—Principal of the Grammar School, 435*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; aid to industrial schools, 500*l.*; books for Grammar School, 8*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*; prizes, industrial schools, 69*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; training of efficient teachers, 144*l.*; grant under Act No. 207, towards the building of a Wesleyan school-room, being one-third of the cost of the same, 150*l.*

In 1867 the difficulties caused by the disastrous fire reacted on the Grammar School, and the number of scholars fell to 11; during the year 1868 the recovery has been small, the average number for the year being 13, with which number the school closed for the Christmas holidays. During the year 3 boys finally left school, 2 former pupils returned, and 3 new pupils joined.

The industrial schools show a decided increase in the number of scholars, the average daily attendance having been 1,746, as against 1,464 the previous year (1867), with a corresponding increase in school pence.

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The Inspector of Schools states that the majority of the schools are in the hands of efficient teachers, and he is convinced of their producing valuable, even if somewhat humble, results in diffusing education among the mass of the population.

The following tables show the progress of the schools for the past eight years:—

RETURNS FOR 1868.

In connection with	Number of Schools receiving Government Aid.	Number of Children on Books.	Average Attendance.	Account of School Pence.
				£ s. d.
Church of England - -	13	1,036	632	129 19 0
Wesleyan - - -	9	925	503	114 12 1
Moravian - - - -	6	730	471	87 18 0
	28	2,691	1,656	332 9 1

COMPARATIVE ANNUAL RETURNS.

Years.	Number of Schools receiving Government Aid	Average Attendance.	Equal by Law to	Amount of School Pence.
				£ s. d.
1861	27	1,416	1,079	282 2 9
1862	25	1,373	1,119	258 13 6
1863	26	1,422	1,109	270 1 2
1864	24	1,243	979	239 7 6
1865	27	1,367	1,042	272 16 8
1866	26	1,347	1,146	286 19 11
1867	25	1,464	1,257	294 7 10
1868	27	1,746	1,451	332 9 1

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

BIRTHS.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
1,140	1,098	1,211	1,245	1,212	1,232	1,273	1,236

DEATHS.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
894	877	947	881	786	724	902	1,021

MARRIAGES.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
111	140	93	74	120	107	88	161

From these figures it appears that the births were 9,647 against 7,032 deaths, showing an increase in the population of 1,715 persons in the eight years. The returns of births and deaths are not as explicit as could be desired, and I am therefore precluded on this occasion from making any remark on the birth-rate or on the proportion of still-born children, or of legitimate and illegitimate children; nor am I able to compare the deaths to arrive at the death-rate or at the ages at which mortality is greatest. It would also be interesting to compare the duration of life among infants, of and under two years old. I regret the want of the returns alluded to, as the table shows an increase in mortality in the three last years of 724 in 1866, 902 in 1867, and 1,021 in 1868. The year has been an unhealthy one, yellow fever prevailed, but not to an alarming degree, and with this exception no epidemic existed.

Gaols.

Viewing the very recent consideration by the Home Government of the important question of the management of colonial prisons and the probability of a penal settlement being established should a Confederation of the Leeward Islands take place, I refrain from any remarks on this subject beyond recording a numerical table of the offences of the year. We are happily free from crimes of great magnitude, but thefts, disorderly conduct, and abusive language are so prevalent, that a larger amount of penal labour and solitude suggest themselves as a remedy for the evil.

Summary of Crime.

Burglary	3
Theft	127
Rape	1
Attempting to commit rape	3
Embezzlement	1
Receiving stolen goods	1
Receiving goods under false pretences	1
Cutting and wounding	13
Manslaughter	1
Assault and battery	68
Abusive and provoking language	43
Breach of contract	13
Trespass	20
Cane breaking	11
Riotous and disorderly conduct	152
Indecent exposure of person	1
Furious driving	2
Forfeited recognizance	2
Malicious destruction of property	2
Rogue and vagabond	4
Escaping from penal Gang at Nevis	1
Desertion of ship	2
Refusing to support illegitimate children	1
Debt	20
Total	493

General.

The agricultural and commercial interests of the Colony are in a healthy and encouraging position. The crop of sugar was good, and fair and remunerating prices were obtained for it. The fire of 1867, well calculated to paralyze the energies of the people, has served rather to stimulate them to exertion. The town, which presented a scene of desolation at the close of last year, is now being improved by means of good, and in some instances substantial, buildings, many of the old narrow streets have been widened, new thoroughfares have been opened in localities most requiring them, and legislative enactment will shortly cause to be supplied a practicably inexhaustible quantity of water to be carried through every street, affording protection from fire, and so far as human agency can provide, immunity from disease. The allowance of the Loan Act so long delayed, is now confidently looked for, and will enable many of the less wealthy inhabitants to complete their buildings.

The native African and coloured population are contented and even prosperous, and, from the returns of schools and marriages, appear to avail themselves of the civil and religious institutions of the Colony, with an increasing appreciation of the advantages derivable therefrom.

C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Secretary to Government.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Governor CAIRNS to His Excellency Sir B. C. C. PINE.

(No. 153.)

SIR, Government House, St. Christopher, August 16, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book returns for this Colony for the year 1868, together with the report thereon.

2. My signature is attached thereto, for the reason that the Colonial Secretary had retired from the active performance of his duties before the report could be framed.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir B. C. C. Pine, (Signed) W. W. CAIRNS.
Governor in Chief, Antigua.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony is derived from the following sources, *viz.*: a duty on imports and exports, tonnage dues inwards and outwards, package dues, rum and liquor licences, a tax upon boatmen's and porters' badges, fines, penalties, and forfeitures, postage and sale of postage stamps, and some small fees. Besides these items, a special impost is levied for the maintenance of the roads, and consists of horse and carriage taxes, a composition in lieu of so many days' manual labour—*corvée*—in each year; and the fines and costs arising from prosecutions for any evasion of these charges. There is at present no land tax, which for many reasons would be the most equitable, although it might not *per se* be a sufficient source of revenue; and when any financial pressure is felt, resort is still had to the clumsy, inconsiderate, and, indeed, inhuman expedient of taxing the industry of the Colony, and the food of the people, in the shape of a twenty-five per cent. enhanced duty upon imports and exports.

* * * * * * *

As a possible source of future revenue, it may here be noted that sulphur is found in large quantities in Nevis. It is believed that it can be profitably excavated, and several cargoes of it have been shipped to America during the year. No duty or royalty has yet been imposed, but the result of the first ventures is being carefully watched, and the time may shortly come when the rights of the Crown should be enforced.

The revenue of last year amounted to 8,058*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, showing an excess of 1,810*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.* over that of the preceding year (1867), which amounted to 6,248*l.* 3*s.* 0½*d.*

The total ordinary expenditure of the year was 5,730*l.* 1*s.* 1½*d.*, as compared with 5,352*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* in 1867; but in addition thereto, the Colonial Treasury was enabled to discharge the remaining portion of its liability to the Colonial Bank to the amount of 945*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, so as to be wholly free of debt in August, and to show a considerable surplus of revenue over expenditure at the close of the year.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs returns show the value of goods imported in 1868 to have been 54,804*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with 40,656*l.* in the previous year.

The export return for 1868 gives a total of 69,318*l.*, against 31,021*l.* in 1867.

Public Works.

No new public works were undertaken during the year, and only such repairs as were found to be urgent.

It will be necessary to give some professional assistance—if possible of a permanent kind—to the present Road Commissioners (who, constituted as they are at present, are a wholly irresponsible body) to enable them to profitably expend such sums as must

shortly be applied to the improvement of the thoroughfares and the construction of bridges and drains. In the same way, some departmental knowledge would greatly assist the Colonial Secretary in estimating for the repair of the churches, the jetty or pier, the Government House, and other works and buildings; and in preventing extravagance or "scamping" when the repairs are being carried out.

Military Expenditure and Militia.

There is no military establishment in this Colony, and no local militia.

Legislation.

The following Acts were passed by the local Legislature:—

1. To substitute one oath for oaths of allegiance, supremacy, &c.
2. To declare the law and practice in cases of escheat.
3. To regulate the carriage of passengers in boats and canoes from this Island.
4. The Coroners' Act, to make other provisions in lieu thereof.
5. To supply the sum of 137*l.* 14*s.* out of the public revenue, 1867 (supplementary).
6. To repeal certain clauses of Road Act, and to make other provision for road service.
7. To protect naval stores.
8. To simplify and expedite the administration of justice.
9. To amend the law relative to juries.
10. To afford summary redress for unlawful detention of personal property.
11. To facilitate the administration of justice in the Court of Chancery.
12. To give jurisdiction to a local Court of Appeal.
13. To extend Act to simplify the administration of justice.
14. To authorize public servants to give the security of a guarantee society for a discharge of duty.
15. To supply 200*l.* (supplementary) for service of 1868.
16. Proclamation proroguing Assembly.

Pensions.

The amount charged against the Colony under this head has been reduced by 180*l.*, in consequence of the death of Chief Justice Ross, and Colonial Secretary Slater, both retired civilians. On the 31st December the public obligations in respect of pensions stood at 24*l.* per annum.

Population.

It would seem that the population of Nevis is decidedly, if not rapidly, on the increase. The returns for 1868 support this view, although the year was one marked by drought and disease, the infant mortality having been unusually great.

Immigration.

Immigration, properly so called, there is none of late years. A few Barbadians arrive from time to time, but public opinion is divided as to the advantage of that crowded Colony being made a source of supply. I believe that Coolies, and especially Indians—Madrassees if possible—would be a valuable addition to the labour market of Nevis, were it only for the moral effect to be produced by this kind of competition upon the too indolent and independent African—or as the local term is, native—labourer. There are some present obstacles, independent of financial considerations, to the satisfactory working of such a scheme, but I am hopeful that before long it may be found desirable to accede to the wishes of the more intelligent and enterprising of the planters, who have expressed to me their desire for three or four hundred Coolies, and who would be ready, I believe, to give such immigrants the fairest possible treatment, and to adopt the soundest system of contracts, under Government inspection, securing to the labourer such conditions of adequate wages, punctuality of payment, provision of return passages, and a reasonable number of working hours, as should attach to the Island a good repute in the recruiting fields of Indiaor China.

Registrars' Returns.

These are in many respects unsatisfactory, and it may be doubted whether they even furnish a reliable numerical estimate of the births, marriages, and deaths, during the

NEVIS.

year. That marriages are more frequent than was formerly the case may be accepted, I believe, as an encouraging proof, first, that greater attention is paid to the teaching of the worthy representatives of the various religious bodies established in Nevis, and to the moral example of many of the resident planters; and, secondly, that the lower orders are in more prosperous circumstances, and more thrifty than heretofore. Indications are not wanting that the great *material* obstacle to marriage among the negroes—their ridiculous and extravagant love of display when the ceremonial takes place—is in gradual course of disappearance; but the figures are still sufficiently startling when they show that of one hundred children born in Nevis, sixty are returned as bastards.

Among the causes of death, as returned by the Registrars, may be noticed the following:—"Died of cold;" this in a climate where the thermometer usually stands at 83°: "Frightened by a spirit"—Obeahism probably suggesting this explanation. Then, as regards the deaths returned under the head of "Fevers," no dependence can be placed upon the record of the type of that so prevalent disease, as entered by officers who are without any professional fitness for such a duty.

Church Returns.

The Rector of St. Thomas and St. James having died during the year, was replaced by a clergyman from Antigua, who has already done much to improve the united parishes confided to his care, and whose efforts in the direction of education I would specially desire to commend.

The Rector of St. John and St. George is incapacitated by age for the efficient performance of his duties.

There is at present no Catholic clergyman in Nevis, of which the Catholic population is, I should add, very small.

Education.

The Anglican and Wesleyan schools are now well attended, but much remains to be done to improve the educational status of the Colony, and any effort in the direction of undenominational education has yet to be made. It is therefore undesirable that the Government should at present propose any considerable appropriation of the Island revenue to the support of its schools. I see no reason why advantage should not be taken of the existence of a superior grammar school in St. Christopher by the children of parents who were able to place them as boarders in that institution.

Shipping.

There is no decked shipping belonging to this Island, but Nevis possesses many large and well-built boats, which conduct the carrying trade to and from St. Christopher. Under the local law they contribute nothing in the nature of tonnage or package duty to the general revenue, although their employment as the local carriers of goods and produce may have caused the exclusion of decked and registered tonnage from any share in the trade.

Agriculture.

Improved methods of cultivation are being generally adopted, thanks mainly, as I believe, to the spirited example of a large proprietor resident in Barbados, but who has purchased much valuable sugar property in Nevis, and who is well represented by his local agent.

It is to be regretted, although perhaps not to be wondered at, that every other description of agriculture is sacrificed to the growth of canes. A year of drought, a blight, or a plague of insects or vermin, would destroy the prosperity of these Islands, where there is no alternative branch of industry; nothing to choose between the uncertainty of the sugar crop and ruin.

Cotton has been all but abandoned in favour of sugar, of which the export, as returned by the Customs, amounted to 3,529 hogsheads, as compared with 2,006 hogsheads in the previous year.

The cultivation of vegetables, &c., by the labouring population, in their own villages and grounds, has considerably increased; but it is matter of complaint that although waste lands abound (they may be computed at three-fourths of the area) no system of leasing of garden plots or stock farms is promoted by the proprietors.

Manufactures.

The steam-engine is rapidly superseding the use of the windmill; but on some properties steam and wind mills are alternately employed, according to the weather and with a view to economy of fuel.

Grants of Land.

There are no Crown lands in Nevis, excepting such as in former years may have been purchased by the colonists from the original grantees, as sites for batteries or other military works or defences. A few of these sites, no longer needed for such purposes, may be profitably sold from time to time.

Gaols and Prisons

Require no particular remark. There is one gaol in Nevis in good condition, but too small, especially as regards the yard accommodation, whether for exercise or industrial or penal drill.

No crime of any enormity has been reported in 1868, and there is reason to believe that even petty offences are on the decrease.

Charitable.

There is no Dorcas Society or other private association of a charitable nature; the asylum, which is mainly supported from public funds, being the only institution for the relief of distress.

Literary.

A small reading room exists in the principal town, Charlestown; and is found to require assistance from Government, although it is partly maintained from private subscriptions.

General Remarks.

It would be well to have medical provision made for Nevis, of the nature and under the regulations which have answered so admirably in the sister island of St. Christopher. No machinery of the kind has yet been introduced into this Island, and there is no doubt but that the mortality among all ages and classes, but especially among the children of the poor, is aggravated by the medical destitution which prevails.

The poor asylum of Nevis is not suited to the wants of the place. It is a wretched building, without regular medical supervision, or indeed regular supervision of any kind. Its present character is that of a lazar house; the public keep aloof, no private charity flows in its direction, and none but the homeless and the incurable will resort to it for what alone it professes to give—the poorest food and merest shelter.

Were a confederation of these Leeward Islands established, or were there even carried out a more intimate union of the two Islands under my government, there is no reason why the Nevis sick and infirm should not in the former event be removed to some other of the Colonies, or in the latter to St. Christopher, to enjoy the superior advantages procurable there.

I believe that the future of Nevis as a prosperous Colony is assured if we can re-arrange the nature and incidence of its taxation, so as to place it on a more natural and a juster basis; if we can provide for the improvement of its roads and the preservation of the public property generally by means of responsible and properly qualified officers; and if, in selecting a new staff to fill existing or prospective vacancies, care be taken to abolish useless appointments, to consolidate such offices as may not separately demand the whole time and attention of a single official, and to give adequate remuneration in every case where a proper kind and amount of work is performed.

It is further necessary that a thorough revision of the laws should be speedily effected.

W. W. CAIRNS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SIR B. C. C. PINE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 20.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, 27th January, 1870.

MY LORD,

No. 129, 27th Dec., 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a despatch from Mr. President Moir, forwarding the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1868.

The Virgin Islands have long ceased to produce sugar for exportation.

The want of capital and labour, together with the circumstance that, owing to the physical formation of the land, improved agricultural implements cannot possibly be used, render it in my opinion highly improbable that cane cultivation will be restored in the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE.
Governor.

The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

(No.129.)

President MOIR to Governor Sir B. C. C. PINE.

Tortola, 27th December, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1868, accompanied by a report prepared by Mr. Treasurer Farrington.

2. As I have been for only six weeks in Tortola, your Excellency will not expect that I should make reference to the affairs of the past year, but I have already ridden over a large portion of the principal Islands embraced in this Colony, and have endeavoured to make myself acquainted with the present condition, and the future wants of the people.

3. It is very pleasing to observe the extent of garden cultivation which exists in the rural districts. The soil is extremely rich and productive. It is principally cultivated in terraces on the slopes of the hills and mountains, which, sown to their tops, appear to yield an abundant harvest. The pasture land is also fairly stocked with fine cattle and active little ponies, well adapted for the hilly work they are called upon to perform; while goats, sheep, and pigs add to the comfort and available resources of the inhabitants.

All these material blessings are now almost exclusively in the hands of the coloured population, who have not much capital, and who, as a general rule, are averse to the judicious outlay of that which they possess; and I could not see but with sad disappointment sugar estate after sugar estate either totally abandoned or parcelled out in patches of canes, yielding but poor returns to the unscientific and prescribed cultivation bestowed on them.

5. I think I may safely add that I have seldom seen a better opportunity than is presented in Tortola for a few men of practical experience, having a little capital to commence with, to make a comfortable livelihood, and in a few years to add considerably to their original capital, in a healthy tropical climate.

The abandoned estates are by this time well rested, and may be bought for trifling sums of money. The Encumbered Estates Act is here in force, and I feel sure that it requires only regular weekly payments to secure a sufficiency of weekly labour from most of those who now helplessly wander away to the degradation and vices of the neighbouring islands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEXANDER W. MOIR.

Sir Benjamin C. C. Pine,
&c. &c. &c.

From Treasurer FARRINGTON to President MOIR.

SIR, Tortola, 20th December, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Honour the Blue Book for 1868, and a report thereon, with a view of its being forwarded to its proper destination.

I must apologize for the delay in completing it, owing to the several changes which took place during the year in the Administrators of the affairs of the Colony, and the many duties consequently devolving upon me in giving information and otherwise.

General Revenue.

The receipts for the years 1867 and 1868 were as follows, viz.:

Sources whence derived.	1867.			1868.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports	735	13	4¼	1,224	3	0
Exports	397	19	6¼	561	14	1
Tonnage	56	1	0	63	14	8
General Tax: Houses, &c.	40	2	6	64	6	6
Land Tax	140	1	0	54	15	6
Cattle Tax	132	17	0	44	0	0
Spirit Licences	52	0	0	32	0	0
General Boat Licences	121	16	2	111	3	6
£	1,676	10	6½	2,155	17	3
				1,676	10	6½
Showing an increase in 1868 of £				479	6	8½

Caused by a duty of 7½ per cent. imposed upon articles formerly free, and by the increase on cattle and spirit licences.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1868 was 170*l.* 19*s.* more than in 1867, caused by the aid given and the necessary outlay to mitigate the effects of the hurricane in the former year last past.

Public Works.

A commodious infirmary has been erected, where 14 paupers are now accommodated at a weekly charge of 1*l.* 10*s.* upon the Colonial Treasury.

The parish church, schoolroom, gaol, and barracks, for the accommodation of the liberated Africans (39 in number) at Kingstown, were in course of erection, but were not finished at the close of the year, and still remain in an uninhabitable condition, especially the barracks at Kingstown.

Some repairs and the cost of new buildings were charged to the parliamentary grant for the restoration of public buildings destroyed by the disastrous hurricane of 1867.

Legislation.

Nine new Ordinances became law in this year. (1868.)
Jan. 14. Land for Postal Service Ordinance.
March 10. Amending Court of Appeal Ordinance.
April 27. Appropriation of Revenue Ordinance.
June 30. Horned Cattle Exemption Ordinance.
„ Spirits Amendment Ordinance.
„ Supplemental Import and Export Ordinance.
Oct. 27. Ordinance to repeal 12th clause of the Volunteer Ordinance.
Nov. 26. Two shilling house Remission Ordinance.
Dec. 29. An Ordinance to repeal the Steam Navigation Ordinance.

Population.

There are 162 births this year and 178 deaths, showing an excess of 16 deaths over those of births. No doubt many died from injuries, colds, and diseases, contracted in the severe hurricane of 1867, as the greater portion of the deaths occurred in the early part of the year 1868.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Agriculture.

It is with much regret I have to remark that cultivations of all kinds are at the lowest ebb in these Islands, the generality of the labourers preferring to migrate to the Danish Island of St. Thomas, and labour in the coal yards, or procure occupations as house-servants, grooms, porters, and boatmen, leaving home in health and strength, and not seldom, after a short residence, returning to these Islands emaciated and without a penny, as they complain generally that it is much cheaper to live in Tortola than in St. Thomas; but it may be that as your Honour see ns already, after a very short residence, to be most anxious to promote a better state of things by your endeavour to induce the labourer to remain at home and attend more to cultivating the soil, which is certainly rich and capable of yielding good returns for kind and generous treatment, we may yet hope that at no distant time there will be an improvement.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports and the exports of the Colony for 1867 and 1868 are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports in 1867 amounted to - -	11,329	7	0
Exports in same year - - -	6,692	6	6

In 1868.

Countries.	Imports therefrom. £	*s.*	*d.*	Exports thereto. £	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua - - - - -	—			291	0	0
St. Kitts - - - - - -	332	10	0	325	5	3
St. Vincent - - - - -	—			113	6	0
Dominica - - - - - -	—			25	16	0
St. Thomas and St. Croix - -	14,042	7	8¾	7,023	19	7
St. Martins - - - - -	7	6	6	18	2	0
Guadaloupe - - - - -	—			256	0	0
Crabb Island - - - - -	—			11	0	0
Wrecked Goods - - -	309	0	7¼	324	5	3
	14,691	4	10	8,388	14	1
Imports and Exports brought down -	11,329	7	5	6,692	6	6
£	3,361	17	5	1,696	7	7

Showing an increase of imports over that of 1867 of 3,361*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*
Also showing an increase of exports over that of 1867 of 1,696*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered in these ports in cargo and ballast in 1868 are 672, comprising 4,378 tons and 1,730 hands.

The number of vessels cleared at these ports in cargo and ballast in 1868 amount to 920, covering 4,132 tons, with crews of 2,665 hands or men.

Charitable Institutions.

The only charitable institution is the Infirmary, where 14 paupers are provided for, as mentioned under the head of public buildings; besides, there is relief granted to 46 out-door paupers, varying from 9*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per week each.

Gaol.

It is pleasing to observe that very few persons were confined in the gaol. Only one at Michaelmas, and only three men and four women at any one time for the whole year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ISAAC FARRINGTON,
Colonial Treasurer.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor FREELING to the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF, Antigua.

(No. 55.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, 4th May, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1868, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

Having only assumed the government of this Island in the present year, my remarks must necessarily be of a limited nature.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) S. FREELING,

Lieut.-Governor.

To the Governor-in-Chief, Antigua,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK RETURNS OF DOMINICA FOR THE YEAR 1868.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to 14,842*l.* 4*s.* 11½*d.*; the expenditure, to 12,894*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.* I am glad to observe that there was an increased revenue over that of 1867 on the undermentioned duties and licences:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duties - - - -	591	15	5
Tonnage ditto - - - -	115	14	5
Export ditto - - - - -	230	0	9
Rum ditto - - - -	240	16	3

The increase mentioned under the Loan Liquidation Act of 1866 is consequent on the extra 10 per cent charged on certain items of revenue, and which expires this year.

The decrease of items of revenue as compared with 1867 is so trifling, as to need no further comment than is contained in the notes to the Blue Book.

The expenditure was less in 1868 than in 1867, the decrease being in small sums on several items, but amounting in the aggregate to 889*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.*

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony is as follows:—

The amount due to the Imperial Government, on account of the Hurricane Loan, 1836.

The amount due to the Colonial Bank and others on account of the loan of 1866, raised for the service of the Island.

The former was a loan of 10,000*l.*, and the latter of 4,100*l.* The last-mentioned loan will be liquidated in the course of the ensuing month.

Without entering into the details of the former loan, which has been frequently reported upon, the debt due to the Imperial Government which has to be paid by annual instalments in 11 years,—the first instalment being payable on 31st March 1870, the last instalment on 31st March, 1880,—is presumed to be 8,325*l.*, or about 756*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

Public Works.

A sum of 884*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* was expended upon the repairs of roads, 131*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* on bridges.

The road composition money amounted to 1,201*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* Of this amount 1,003*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* were expended.

The maintenance and repair of the public roads and bridges, the payment of salaries to the Inspector of Roads, Road Wardens, and Clerk to Road Commissioners, are under a special law, by which all persons, except ministers of religion, between the ages of 16

DOMINICA. and 50, are liable to contribute labour for a certain number of days in the year, or, in lieu thereof, to pay a money commutation; the amount thus collected cannot be devoted to other services.

The sum of 102*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* expended upon the repair of the bridge over the Roseau river was money thrown away; the bridge, on which a total sum of 810*l.* 19*s.* was expended, having been carried away in September last. This bridge was so extremely faulty in design as to seem to court destruction.

The public buildings are generally in a most dilapidated condition, necessitating considerable outlay; but I have reported on this subject in a separate despatch.

Legislation.

Nineteen laws were passed during the year, but they are not of sufficient importance to merit special comment.

Population.

The Registrar-General returns the population at 26,882, showing an increase over the year 1867 of 283.

There were 783 births against 740 in 1867; 98 marriages against 125 in 1867; 500 deaths against 539 in 1867.

Ecclesiastical.

According to returns furnished to me by the different ministers of religion, the denominations in round numbers are as follows:—Roman Catholics, 23,000; Wesleyans, 1,500; Church of England, 700; representing a total of 25,200: thus leaving 1,682 persons unaccounted for, which is probably owing to the system of squatting in the mountains, which renders it difficult for ministers to obtain access to them.

The establishment of the Roman Catholic Church consists of a Bishop, a Vicar-General, and 10 priests; the Wesleyan Mission, of 3 missionaries; the Church of England, of 1 clergyman. The Church of England is alone supported from the local revenue.

Education.

There are 18 Government schools under the control of the Board of Education.

Number of scholars attending these schools:—boys, 739; girls, 486; total, 1,225: being an increase of 638 scholars.

The expenditure for the maintenance of these schools is limited to 750*l.* per annum.

The remaining schools supported by voluntary contributions are in connection with the Church of England in Roseau, 2 schools, with 108 scholars; Wesleyan Mission, 6 schools, with 487 scholars; Roman Catholic, 7 schools, with 568 scholars. Thus the total number of children receiving education amounts to 2,388.

I am glad to be able to report that the poorer classes are beginning to see the advantages of education, and could more money be afforded from the revenue, there would be no difficulty in obtaining additional scholars.

I am much pleased with the management of the schools in Roseau, and with the intelligence of the children; but in some of those in the country I find that the children are taught to answer by rote difficult questions, and to read out of the higher books used in the schools, even before they are sufficiently acquainted with the simplest elementary rules.

Imports and Exports.

The total declared value of Imports was 57,180*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, against 51,047*l.* in 1867, 61,188*l.* in 1866, 52,374*l.* in 1865.

The value of imports direct from the United Kingdom was 23,821*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, British Colonies, 26,977*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, foreign countries, 6,382*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*

The principal increase of imports were from the United Kingdom they having risen from 16,701*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* in 1867, to 23,821*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* in 1868. As in 1867, nearly the whole of the imports from British Colonies came from Barbados, which is rapidly becoming the great entrepôt of the West Indian Islands.

The value of imports from the United States shows an increase of 696*l.*, from British North America, a decrease of 620*l.* The articles of import from the United States, as

well as from British North America, consist for the most part of flour, salt fish, lumber, and shingles.

The declared value of exports was 111,876*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, against 95,579*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* in 1867, 106,452*l.* in 1866, 53,181*l.* in 1865.

The principal articles of export are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoa, and coffee.

The increase has been as follows:—sugar, 1,411,700 lbs.; molasses, 120 gallons; cocoa, 48,566 lbs.

The decrease:—rum, 5,323 gallons; coffee, 14,036 lbs. It is a subject of regret that since a blight which appeared in 1831 on the coffee trees and destroyed them, there has been no attempt to grow coffee in any large quantities. The quantity raised and exported prior to this occurrence varied from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 pounds weight annually.

The exports were distributed as follows:—

To the United Kingdom, 101,838*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* in 1868, against 86,335*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* in 1867.

To British Colonies, 2,729*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* in 1868, against 4,706*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* in 1867.

To Foreign Countries, 7,308*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, against 4,538*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

It will thus be seen, that while the exports to the United Kingdom and foreign countries have increased, those for the British Colonies have largely decreased.

Shipping.

The shipping returns for the past three years are as follows:—

ENTERED.

1868	324 vessels	-	20,336 tonnage
1867	325 „	-	7,778 „
1866	193 „	-	7,493 „

CLEARED.

1868	284 vessels	-	9,116 tonnage
1867	299 „	-	7,785 „
1866	187 „	-	8,211 „

The total tonnage entered and cleared was—

	Entered.	Cleared.
Great Britain	6,925	3,303
British West Indies	3,569	3,324
French ditto	6,592	1,263
Othercountries	3,248	1,226

Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 186,436 acres. I regret to observe that there is no official return of the estimated acreage either of cultivated and uncultivated land, or of the number of estates abandoned, for I consider that this could be ascertained, and I hope before long to be enabled to furnish information on this point.

Remarks on Squatting.

There is a considerable amount of squatting, both on crown lands and on abandoned estates. There is no power to interfere with squatters on the latter, and it is difficult, owing to the mountainous and rugged nature of the country and the density of the forest and jungle, to deal with them on the former.

I am concerting measures to grapple with what I consider to be a great evil, and I hope shortly to be enabled to remedy it in some measure.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There is but one gaol in the Island, that of Roseau. The total number of prisoners committed in 1868 was 272; of these above 38 were for debt, and 56 for breach of the Road Act, that is, for not turning out to repair the roads or paying the composition money.

The prisoners for road default are separated as much as possible from the others, and are employed only on labonr on the roads.

DOMINICA.

The system of hard-labour in force is not what I could wish; but, considering the poverty of the Colony, it is necessary to utilize the labour of prisoners without the gaol as far as possible. I trust soon, however, to be able to combine a certain amount of hard-labour, in the way of shot-drill, as a more deterrent punishment, with remunerative labour without the walls.

Charitable Institutions.

Comprising Poor-house, Lunatic Asylum, Infirmary, Orphanage. These have been reported upon in former Blue Books, and there is nothing new worthy of note respecting them; beyond that the amount contributed for the relief of the poor (including the salaries of the medical attendants), 1,830*l.*, and for the purposes of education, 750*l.*, total 2,580*l.*, being nearly one-fifth part of the whole ordinary revenue, appears to me to be an excessive proportion, and scarcely warranted by our resources.

General Remarks.

The above remarks show the present state of the Island in some degree; the past is a matter of history, the future it is difficult to foresee.

The Island is in the highest degree fertile. Sugar, coffee, cocoa, all of the best quality, could be grown in abundance, as well as nearly all kinds of provisions, with but little labour. Moreover, there is an abundance of valuable timber.

In fact, this very fertility of soil is one of the reasons of the financial poverty of the Island. The labouring classes, on the wages they obtain for two or three days' work, can live for the whole of a week; and therefore when labour is most required in crop-time, it is often difficult to obtain it.

The squatting system is likewise a great evil: many of the poorer classes migrate from the low lands to the hills, where in the middle of the forest they clear the ground and planting sufficient vegetables and fruit for their consumption are content. If squatters are found on Crown lands, which it is difficult to do, owing to the nature of the country, they are ejected; but they only return again. From abandoned estates, where many squat, there is no power to eject them.

It is therefore not to be wondered at that many estates have been abandoned, and that capitalists care not to invest money; but yet with capital and a supply of coolie labour, and with squatting exterminated, this Island could and would, in my opinion, become one of the richest of the West Indies.

I am directing my attention to the best measures that can be taken to, at least in some degree, improve the condition of the Colony; but I cannot disguise from myself that the task is difficult, unless more capital is thrown into the place.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1868.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
May, 1870.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
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1870.

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NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

DOMINION OF CANADA

No. 1.

(No Report received.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Administrator of the Government to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 12.) Prince Edward Island,
Government House, February 15, 1870.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, two copies of the Colonial Blue Book for the year 1868, a year, with the exception of about two months, anterior to my administration of the Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. HODGSON,
Administrator.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 81.) Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
August 31, 1869.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868. I have only been a very short time in this island, and as I was not present during any portion of the year 1868, I requested the Colonial Secretary to furnish me with such observations as he was enabled to offer, relative to the statistics contained in the Blue Book, and I forward for your Lordship's information Mr. Bemister's report.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Secretary's Office, 25th August, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1868, and to observe, with reference thereto, that there is nothing of a special character therein which is calculated to make it an exception to its predecessors.

The importations were less than those of 1867, owing, no doubt, in a great degree to an excess in that year which left large stocks on hand; those goods which pay *ad valorem* duty bring at least one half the deficiency. The remainder is made up on the principal articles of commerce: viz., flour, pork, butter, molasses, salt, spirits, sugar, and tobacco. There was also, chiefly in the articles of dry cod, salmon, seal, cod-oil, and seal-skins, a falling off in the export trade, both as regards quantity and value. The following is the result of the two years compared.

1868.	Imports (value) - - - -	$4,304,423
„	Exports „ - - -	4,263,660
1867.	Imports „ - - - -	5,561,008
„	Exports „ - - -	5,068,603

The result therefore of the trade last year may be considered somewhat under an average; but it is somewhat remarkable, when compared with the other North American colonies, and taking population as the basis of calculation, to find that our trade is larger than theirs; but our other means of making an independent population are of course less.

Revenue.

There was collected last year from Customs duties (including light dues) $633,075·21. This is collected from all articles imported, without exception. Should confederation with the Dominion of Canada be carried out, a large number of articles now taxed and used by our planters and fishermen will be admitted duty free.

Population.

This is taken from the census of 1857. The population at present probably exceeds 150,000. This will be ascertained towards the close of the present year, a fresh census being in course of progress.

Education.

The votes under the head of education advanced from the Colonial chest amount to $63,994·32.

Roads.

This important service is attended to so far as the means at the disposal of the Government will admit of, but the large expenditure of late years for the support of able-bodied poor during the winter has very much crippled their efforts for good in this direction. The expenditure on road account in 1868 was $152,870·22, but a large portion of that amount had to be advanced to the able-bodied poor, for which full returns have not been given.

Condition and Prospects of the People.

These may be considered as more encouraging than of late years. The fishing has been fair on the coast of this island, in many places good. The late news from the Labrador is not so cheering as could be wished, but hopes are entertained of a paying voyage. The crops promise well, and the late Governor having, by the advice of his Council, issued a proclamation in June of last year notifying the population generally throughout the island that the demoralizing system of pauper relief to able-bodied poor during the winter, so long the bane of the Colony, would be discontinued for the future, and it having been rigidly enforced last winter against every influence to the contrary, an amount of energy and forethought has been created which must be of benefit to many, but especially to those whose demoralization was almost complete.

With these few observations,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. BEMISTER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir F. E. CHAPMAN, K.C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 17.)

MY LORD, Government House, Bermuda, May 1, 1869.

I HAVE the honour, in transmitting the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868, to offer the following remarks:—

Taxes and Duties.

No alterations have been made in the taxes and duties during the past year; they are identical with those fixed by the Legislature in Act 2, Session 2 of 1866; but it is to be observed that the sums collected in 1868 under the Supply Act exceed that of 1867 by nearly 3000*l.*

Revenue.

The Revenue, compared with that for the preceding year, is as 36,110*l.* to 24,268*l.*, showing an apparent increase of 11,842*l.*; but from this should be deducted 9,000*l.* obtained on loan by authority of Act 17, Session 1 of 1867; the real increase, therefore, is under 3,000*l.*

BERMUDA.

Expenditure.

The expenditure has been considerably in excess (14,031*l.*) of that for 1867, and is principally accounted for by an outlay of 12,218*l.*, which has been incurred in constructing a causeway between St. George's, Long Bird Island, and the mainland westward.

Public Works.

In my Despatch covering the Blue Book for 1867 I reported the commencement of a causeway between St. George's, Long Bird Island, and the mainland westward; I have now the pleasure of representing its satisfactory progress, and of repeating the opinion then expressed as to the great importance of this work when finished, of affording in all seasons an uninterrupted and secure communication for the military forming the main force at Prospect Hill, with the garrisons detached around St. George's for the defence of its harbour and the channels in its vicinity.

The outlay on this causeway has been entirely defrayed from Colonial funds, the community being fully alive to the inconvenience and danger attendant on the present slow and precarious transit in open boats between St. George's and the islands westward.

The importance, however, of the causeway as a means of communication is infinitely greater for military purposes than for colonial, and it is to be hoped that the Imperial Government will recognize the propriety of bearing a due proportion of the expense of constructing this work.

Education.

The Legislature in 1867 having seen the expediency of making some provision in aid of education, granted an annual sum of 500*l.* for this purpose, and enacted that a Council of Education should be formed, consisting of the Governor, two members of Her Majesty's Council, and three members of the House of Assembly, who should administer the school funds, and have the general superintendence and control of all schools receiving public aid; an Inspector of Schools, with an annual salary, was also provided.

Under the regulations of the Council seventeen schools have, during the year 1868, received aid from the public funds in the following manner:—Teachers of schools, having not less than twelve pupils in regular attendance, have received a fixed allowance per annum; a capitation grant for every pupil beyond that number who has also been a regular attendant; and an additional sum for every scholar reported by the Inspector to have shown proofs of proficiency. The average numbers on the school-books have been 780, the regular attendants 594, proficients 175.

Imports.

The value of imports for the last three years have been

In 1866	£192,122
1867	200,817
1868	199,930

Exports.

The value of exports for the same periods have been—

In 1866	£31,832
1867	22,832
1868	33,875

The products of Bermuda are principally potatoes, onions, and tomatoes, the chief means of exporting which until lately consisted in sailing vessels, on which no dependence could be placed as to the time when they would land their cargoes in the neighbouring ports; consequently the agricultural population was backward in rearing crops with the chance of their being deteriorated or spoilt in transmission for sale; steam communication has, within the last few months, been opened with New York, and if this can be maintained there is every probability of the farmers generally availing themselves of it, and exporting in larger quantities than they have hitherto ventured.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FRED. E. CHAPMAN.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

No 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUSGRAVE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 12.)

MY LORD, Government House, British Columbia, October 18, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868, with a report which was prepared before my arrival here by Mr. Good, the then acting Colonial Secretary.

2. As my acquaintance with British Columbia is so very recent, I prefer to postpone for future communications any remarks I may desire to offer for your Lordship's consideration respecting the several departments of public affairs; but I think that many of Mr. Good's observations, especially with regard to the financial position of the Colony, are worthy of notice.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

British Columbia, Colonial Secretary's Office,

SIR, August 21, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Honour, for transmission to England, one of the duplicate copies of the British Columbia Blue Book for the year 1868.

This book would have been completed somewhat earlier but for the additional duties entailed upon me by the sudden death of Governor Seymour.

It is, however, I am glad to say, ready at even an earlier date than in previous years, though the difficulty of obtaining the necessary returns, owing to the great distance of some of the outlying districts and the infrequency of communication, will for some years prevent the Blue Book being completed before the month of July.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1868 was in excess of that of the previous year by some $100,000, the revenue of these two years being respectively $483,105 and $585,547.

It is, however, not compatible with the exceptional circumstances of the year 1868 to build up a fabric of increasing prosperity on this basis alone.

The year 1868 was the first since the union of the Western Colonies that the application of the Customs duties had come into full force. Stocks which had accumulated in Victoria prior to union, and on which no duty had been paid, were by this time exhausted, and merchants, not feeling exactly certain how matters would turn out, and having to provide themselves with a general assortment of merchandize, imported very largely, and as the imports for 1869 show, in excess of the current consumption of the country. This produced an increase in Customs revenue of $110,000 in 1868 as against the previous year, and more than the increase in the whole general revenue for the year; the Customs duties being for these two years $270,000 and $381,000 respectively.

A slight increase took place in road tolls' receipts, traceable to the same cause, giving a balance of about $8,000 in favour of 1868.

The Excise duties in 1867 were only $795, but in 1868 had increased to $5,047, this large increase being due to greater vigilance in inspection of distilleries having been exercised.

A slight decrease is visible in miners' licences and general mining receipts, due, I regret to say, to an evident falling off in the number of miners employed, which decrease I shall account for under the head of population.

There is no other item of revenue which would appear to demand special notice.

I may here remark that it is a matter of surprise to me that no stamp duty has yet been imposed in this Colony; it forms a legitimate source of revenue, which it would materially increase, and if judiciously dealt with would form a very slight burden, as in almost every instance it would fall on the more wealthy portion of the community.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The expenditure of 1868 reached $597,756, while that of 1867 was only $505,000; of this sum, viz. $597,756, the large item of $128,000 was for arrears of previous year's expenditure not paid till 1868, so that the actual expenditure for the year is reduced to $469,000.

This increase resulted from the estimated increase to the revenue of the year, though under some heads no inconsiderable decrease took place as compared with the year 1867.

The expenditure on civil establishments for the year was $142,824, showing a decrease of $5,000 in favour of that year as compared with 1867. This decrease was due to abolition of office.

An increase of $3,000 took place in expenditure on hospitals, and of $5,000 in education, consequent on larger grants in aid having been extended in 1868 on that behalf.

A considerable decrease is also apparent under the head of conveyance of mails as against 1867, viz. $5,000, consequent on the reduction of the price of the mail contract in the interior.

The largest item of increased expenditure, however, is observable under the respective headings of works and buildings, and roads, streets, and bridges, amounting in the former case to $15,353, and in the latter to $13,579.

The expenditure in 1867 under these heads was, in consequence of the unpromising appearance of the revenue, reduced to the lowest possible figure; but the improved condition of affairs in 1868 enabled the Government to expend an increased sum of $63,595, as against $34,662 in 1867, though still far under the absolute needs of the country.

It will be observed that the actual expenditure for the year, viz. $469,000, has not exceeded the actual revenue, viz. $585,547, a fact which only applies to a few previous years. The surplus of revenue went to reduce the account current with the bank—which at the commencement of the year stood at $60,000, but at the end of the year was nearly extinguished—as well as to meet the unpaid arrears of the previous year.

Public Debt.

The remarks which I had occasion to make in my report on the Blue Book for 1866 in reference to the severe drain upon our resources caused by the remittance to England of 25,000*l.* every year to meet the interest and sinking fund of loans, apply, with even more force, to our financial position during last year. This sum forms a quarter of our whole revenue, and leaves so small a margin for surveys, explorations, new works, and the opening up of new communications, all of vital importance to the welfare and advancement of the Colony, as to render it impossible for the Executive to carry out anything more than mere repairs, and at the same time weakens the hands of the Government politically.

It must certainly have been unnecessary that such short terms should have been originally fixed upon for the repayment of the public loans, and consequently such large sums have to be yearly expended to provide a sinking fund for their redemption. If a longer term of years had originally been fixed upon, we should be paying little more than half the sum we now do, and the remainder could have been spent in reproductive public works. Nor has the evil ended here, for the difficulty of meeting its liabilities during the last three years has necessitated the Colony incurring temporary loans at the enormous interest of 12 per cent. per annum, which amounts to a further charge of 7,000*l.* in the course of each year.

So that when the current expenses of the Colony are met, and before a single item of fresh expenditure can be undertaken in any year, 33,000*l.*, or one-third of our whole revenue, is swallowed up. The remedy for this evil is simple enough, if it could only meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. The loans contracted in England amount to 240,000*l.*, of which some 80,000*l.* has already been provided for by sinking fund, leaving 160,000*l.* yet to be met. The floating debt of the Colony amounts to some 56,000*l.* more, so that its total liability amounts, in round numbers, to 220,000*l.*

I would urgently suggest that a new loan for this sum be raised in England, redeemable in 50 years, and that with the proceeds thereof all existing liabilities may be paid off, leaving the Colony perfectly free of all other debt, and its revenue only chargeable with interest and sinking fund for the new loan. The interest at 6 per cent. per annum would amount to 13,200*l.* and the sinking fund on a loan of 220,000*l.* for 50 years would only require a yearly remittance of 800*l.* Our revenue would then be chargeable with a yearly sum of only 14,000*l.*, while at present we are yearly burdened with 32,000*l.* for the same debt.

The saving to the Colony would be a clear 18,000*l.* per annum, or a sum that would go very far to carry out all the much needed public works, and restore public confidence.

Legislation.

The Ordinances passed in 1868 were only 12 in number, and I am unable to point to any of them as having any particular bearing on the welfare of the country, or as possessing any peculiar importance. The session of the Legislative Council lasting only some two or three months was chiefly occupied in discussions of a polemical nature; while the Bills that are brought in are hurried through their stages, and many useful and necessary measures affecting the prosperity of the Colony are altogether lost sight of. Of paramount importance to my mind is the assimilation of the laws of the two former Colonies. The present state of affairs, with different laws on the same subject in force in different parts of the same Colony, administered by distinct Courts of Judicature, results in a state of confusion and dissatisfaction unparalleled in the history of any of Her Majesty's Colonies.

Civil Establishment.

No new appointments were made in 1868, and only one or two unimportant changes in the holders of subordinate offices took place. One magisterial appointment, that of Mr. Cox, of the Columbia district, was abolished, and the officer compensated. While, however, a great public outcry exists against the Civil List, and a continual demand is made both in and out of the Legislature for its reduction, yet the moment such reduction is attempted by the Executive with a view to economy, the public discover that that particular officer or office was the one that could least advantageously be dispensed with. This was particularly evidenced in the case where the salaries of two officers at the Cariboo mines were slightly reduced, the Government having considered their salaries exorbitant and out of proportion to the duties and position of their offices. But no sooner were the estimates made public than numerous protests were made in the Council against the step and resolutions passed that the previous rate might be restored to these particularly deserving officers whose salaries were held to be quite inadequate. Such are some of the difficulties of practising economy and effecting reductions.

Population.

It is a matter of much regret to me, in looking over the yearly returns of population, to find that no increase beyond that of children born in the Colony can be chronicled. This is more surprising in a Colony possessing the finest and healthiest climate in the world, well suited for agriculture and stock raising, rich in gold, coal, and other minerals, and teeming with natural resources of every description. This state of things is more annoying when one reads of the thousands who yearly leave the shores of England for Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States; while hardly 10 immigrants of the mechanic or agricultural class direct from the mother-country reach us in the course of a year.

The cause of this is our being so far from England, and therefore wholly dependent for increase of population on the neighbouring foreign States, which have equal if not greater advantages than we have to offer, more particularly the privilege of living under their own institutions, one which is inexpressibly dear even to the naturalized American.

It will be observed too that a terrible disproportion exists between the male and female population of the Colony, the former exceeding the latter by some 277 per cent. It is impossible to lay too much stress on this evil, one which does more to retard the advance of the Colony than any other; and this, while thousands of decent women who could find happy homes here, either as servants or wives, are perhaps starving at home, their energies over-taxed, and their bodies wasted by too much work and too little food, and no opportunity occurs to them to reach this far-off shore. It is impossible for us with our cramped revenue to expend more than a limited sum in fostering immigration; but it appears to me that the Government of England with a starving population on their hands could not do better than to ship yearly a suitable number of emigrants to this Colony, a double good being thereby accomplished: 1st, the relief of an over-burdened community at home; 2nd, the peopling of a country which is one day destined to form one of the fairest jewels in the Royal Crown of England. * * * * *

Education.

The expenditure on this account in 1868 was about $10,000. The system in force on the mainland before union was for the Government to assist any school that might

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

be established by granting a dollar a-month for each child attending school, whose parents contributed another dollar.

In Vancouver Island a system of altogether free education prevailed at a very considerable cost.

The principle of the mainland system has gradually been adopted, and early this year an Ordinance was passed bringing the whole Colony under it, that is to say, both the Government and the parent assisted in the child's education. The system is purely non-sectarian. The number of common schools in operation throughout the Colony in 1868 was 10. The number of children educated, 477 males, females 354, being more than two-thirds of the whole number of children in the Colony.

In Victoria there are several good private schools, chief among which are the boys' and girls' colleges, under the auspices of the Church of England, in both of which a good sound education is imparted. The boys number 52, the girls 78.

The Roman Catholics have also two excellent schools for boys and girls, which are largely attended, I believe, with very satisfactory results as regards education. The number trained in these schools yearly is,—boys, 60; girls, 96.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports into the Colony for the year 1868 was $2,338,080, as against $1,687,668 for 1867; being a balance of about $656,000 in favour of 1868. This increase may be mainly accounted for by the fact of the old stocks imported before union, and on which no Customs duties had been paid, having been exhausted, and the necessity which was thus entailed upon traders to recruit their stocks and provide a general assortment of merchandize, and must not be attributed to any great increase in trade; and this view, which I think is the most prudent one to take, is confirmed by what we have learned of the Customs revenue of the year 1869, which at present is considerably below that of 1868.

The exports for 1868 amounted to $748,000, being in excess of those for 1867 by $373,035; a very favourable indication of the growth of home industry, which I have little doubt will be yearly added to. This return is wholly exclusive of gold, which is computed to have been exported in 1868 to the extent of 700,000*l.*

The increase in the export of coal in 1868 is noticeable, having amounted to 35,000 tons, as against 25,000 tons in 1867.

It may also be observed that the Vancouver Island Coal Company has paid a dividend of 20 per cent. for 1868, a certain proof of the prosperity of the undertaking.

The timber trade too is on the increase; the export of 1868 was $199,635, in 1867 $76,365; showing a balance in favour of the year of $123,270.

The lumber from the Colony is becoming better known and more appreciated every year.

Agriculture.

It is a pleasure to be able, under this head, to point out a very considerable progress. Each succeeding year adds fresh proof of the capability of this Colony for agriculture and stock raising. The following brief returns of the quantity of stock existing and cereals raised in British Columbia for the year 1868, although small indeed in itself, shows that no retrograde motion has been made in this respect at least.

1867.		1868.	
Stock.	No.	Stock.	No.
Horses - -	3,777	Horses - -	5,779
Cattle - - -	15,450	Cattle - - -	24,079
Sheep - -	4,313	Sheep - -	11,959
Pigs - - -	5,993	Pigs - - -	11,239
Cereals.	**No. of Acres.**	**Cereals.**	**No. of Acres.**
Oats - -	2,713	Oats - -	3,266
Wheat - - -	2,832	Wheat - - -	4,290
Barley - -	2,579	Barley - -	3,403

I may add that farmers and stock raisers are all doing well, and are highly contented with their prospects.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

The lumber trade is much on the increase. The amount exported in 1867 showed a value of $76,365, in 1868 of $199,635; the increase being over $123,000.

The lumber and spars from the mainland are held to be as fine as any, if not the finest, in the world.

The yield of gold in the various mining localities throughout the Colony was slightly in excess of the previous year, and several new and important creeks and diggings were added to the known gold fields.

The yield of coal was 35,000 tons in 1868, showing an increase of 10,000 tons in favour of that year as compared with 1867. Great activity has been manifested in prospecting for coal, and several new mines have been opened, one in Queen Charlotte Island, producing very fine specimens of coal: great expectations are entertained of this mine.

No considerable advance in fisheries has been achieved, with the exception of whale-fishing. This branch of industry has up to the present time been very successful. I am unable to obtain any details at present, but have been promised full particulars for the year 1869.

The manufacture of flour on the mainland has been steadily on the increase. No less than nine large mills were at work on the mainland during the year, and turned out 2,300,000 lbs. of flour, being in fair proportion to the small population of the Colony.

Police and Gaols.

The gaols at Victoria and New Westminster continue on the same footing as heretofore. They are clean and well kept, and every precaution is taken to ensure the health and well-being of the prisoners.

Crime was very rare in 1868, there being only 26 convictions, chiefly Natives.

Hospitals.

The hospitals of Cariboo, New Westminster, and Victoria, which are maintained by Government support and public subscriptions, were in full operation during the year, and afforded welcome assistance to some 200 injured and diseased sufferers.

General Remarks.

In looking over the returns for 1868, and comparing them with those for previous years, I see no reason whatever for despondency; on the contrary, I see great reason for hope and confidence.

The gradual decline of Victoria since 1863, from whatever causes it may have arisen (and a great diversity of opinion exists thereon), has naturally induced much despondency, and the public prints have been full of complaints and despairing views as to the whole Colony. I think there is some mistake here. In 1863, when Victoria had reached the height of her prosperity, the whole Colony was held to be flourishing, yet on the mainland not a farm was occupied, not an acre tilled, not a head of cattle raised, not a pound of flour ground, nor was the lumberer's axe ever heard in the woods. Now, when agriculture has made rapid progress and considerable settlement has taken place, many mills have been erected, and other sources of wealth opened, it is held that we are declining.

It appears to me that such an opinion cannot justly be based on the present state of affairs, and that it is chiefly traceable to local depression. I trust that this state of things has ended; that material prosperity and advancement will be acknowledged when it really exists, that cheerfulness and hope will take the place of gloom and despondency, and that all will work together for the common good. Of one thing I feel quite certain, that is, that if the financial arrangements to which I have alluded under the head of Public Debt could be satisfactorily carried out, and the Colony free to spend her yearly revenue within her own limits, the return of prosperity and confidence would be immediate. But failing this, I have no doubt that a prosperous future awaits this Colony, which though it may appear nearer or farther off in different minds, can be predicted with certainty by any one who can judge of its climate, resources, and general advantages for settlement.

(Signed) CHARLES GOOD,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Honour the Officer Administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir A. E. KENNEDY, C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 160.)

MY LORD, Government House, Sierra Leone, July 22, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate copy of the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1868.

The absence of some officers, and the sickness of others will prevent me entering into any lengthened remarks upon the contents of these statistical tables.

The column of remarks on the cause of "increase or decrease" of revenue and expenditure, are sufficient to show that the state of the revenue is satisfactory and the Settlement generally prosperous.

The Settlement is free from debt.

Public Works.

No public work of magnitude has been undertaken, though plans and estimates have been prepared by an engineer sent from England for the construction of an entirely new wharf.

Education.

An inspector sent from England has made a minute examination of the existing schools, and the state of public education generally; and recorded the result of his observations in an able report now before the public.

A Director of Public Instruction has also been appointed, and I anticipate important practical results from the labours of both these gentlemen.

Steam Communication.

There is now steam communication with Liverpool and Glasgow four times a month, and once a month (going and coming) between Sherbro, Bulama, and this Settlement.

The benefits conferred thereby on commerce are very marked, and the profits I believe very satisfactory to the companies owning the vessels.

Native Chiefs.

The local government is on the most friendly terms with the surrounding Chiefs; and I hope permanent peace has been established in all the neighbouring territories. A spirit of mutual respect and good-will has taken root, founded upon the only lasting basis—the social and commercial interests of both parties.

General Remarks.

My Despatches during the past year have conveyed all the information which I have been able to place before you.

Inconvenience and loss of revenue have resulted from the unsettled or undecided title to the ownership of Bulama and neighbouring territory; a matter of serious importance to this Settlement.

The people are loyal and orderly; and there is a remarkable absence of serious crime.

I look for a great diminution of that which now exists when officers are procurable to organize and carry out an efficient system of classification and prison discipline.

The scheme which is under your Lordship's consideration of granting six months' leave of absence after eighteen months' continuous service will prove a great boon to the public officers, and will, I feel confident, combined with other changes which your Lordship has invited me to suggest, attract a better class of candidates for employment on this coast, and relieve it to some extent from its character of extreme insalubrity.

I have during the year visited all the Settlements between Gambia and Lagos, some of them twice. I have travelled 5,000 miles by land and by water, and ascended five rivers. The "Volta," which had never before been entered, or the bar crossed, by any vessel, among the number.

The general result of my observations is, that the present and future commercial importance of the West Africa Settlements, and the coast generally, is understood and appreciated by a few persons only, who are receiving a very handsome return for their enterprise; and I fully believe that the civilization of the people has kept, and will continue to keep, pace with commerce.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. E. KENNEDY, C.B.,
to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 54.)

MY LORD, Government House, Sierra Leone, August 9, 1869.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit a Report from the Administrator at the Gambia, accompanied by the Blue Book of the Settlement for the year 1868.

2. There are several matters treated of in this Report which will require consideration and on which I shall address your Lordship at an early period.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 85.)

SIR, Government House, Gambia, August 4, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of these Settlements for the year 1868.

2. The late cholera epidemic recently raging at Bathurst prevented the completion of the Blue Book as early as I could wish, or the Regulations prescribed.

3. During the past year of the Colony there is evidence of much improvement in the financial condition of the Colony, yet from the disturbed state of the interior of the country surrounding these Settlements, there is much to cause anxiety for the future.

4. The Revenue of the Colony amounted to 22,088*l.* 7*s.*, the Expenditure 17,082*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance of 5,005*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* in the Colonial chest.

The Revenue, as compared with that of 1867, shows a falling off of 326*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, but that year must be considered an exceptional one on account of the heavy crop of ground nuts and consequent increase of importations. The Customs alone producing 1,933*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* more in that year than in 1868. The actual decrease in the total Revenue of 1868 must be estimated at 1,000*l.*, as part of the Parliamentary Grant for 1867 is brought to account in 1868.

5. The comparative expenditure for the two years shows a decrease in that of 1868 of 1,581*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, but the actual expenditure was much the same, for a sum of 2,500*l.* was expended in 1867 in purchasing the Public Offices, thus freeing the Colony of a rent of 200*l.* per annum.

The Establishments show a decrease in expenditure of 254*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, whereas works and buildings an increase of 731*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

6. The total balance in the Colonial Chest on the 31st December, 1868, was 5244*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, which together with the sum of 4,400*l.* invested by the Crown Agents in New Zealand 5 per cents, makes a grand total in favour of the Colony of 9,644*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* at the expiration of the year. This, as compared with former years, bespeaks either the prosperity of the Colony, the elasticity, or increase of the Revenue, or a more careful supervision of the expenditure. An Ordinance was enacted in 1866, increasing the Customs duties for the purpose of paying off liabilities, and to equalize the Revenue and Expenditure of the Settlements. This has all been accomplished besides the present result before us.

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7. I give below a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure since 1860 :—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1860	13,921	3	5	15,273	10	3
1861	16,161	17	9	16,492	8	9
1862	11,449	4	0	15,177	17	0
1863	13,195	9	10	19,325	4	1
1864	17,204	15	11	17,662	7	7
1865	14,758	14	9	17,151	9	5
1866	19,079	15	4	17,681	11	6
1867	22,415	0	8	18,664	7	11
1868	22,088	7	0	17,082	12	7

The Revenue appears to have been of a capricious character, yet the expenditure seems to have been kept at a steady figure.

8. The Parliamentary Grants averaged about 4,200*l.* from 1860 to 1867, now I am glad to say the Imperial Exchequer is relieved to the extent of 2,500*l.* per annum, for the grant for 1868 was only 1,500*l.*; this state of affairs must be as satisfactory to the Colony as to the Imperial Government.

9. The contemplated works of draining the swamp near Bathurst, the seat of Government, at an estimated cost of 4,000*l.*; the building a lighthouse at Cape St. Mary's at 2,000*l.*; repairing Government House at 2,500*l.*, will about absorb the available balance at the end of the year 1868.

10. The military expenditure in this Colony is estimated at about 20,000*l.*, and is entirely defrayed by the Imperial Government. The strength consists of 140. Although I cannot recommend the withdrawal of the troops who are an advantage to the Colony in being the medium of circulating Imperial money, besides being a source of profit to the landlords and others from the high rents with repairing leases, that are paid for the officers' quarters, yet I conscientiously believe that a small steamer costing about 3,000*l.*, with a couple of guns, would be more effective and produce a greater impression amongst the natives up the river where the vessel could penetrate, than the mere display of troops at Bathurst, who cannot be seen by those who require the most effect to be made on them.

11. The Militia at McCarthy's Island was called out during 1868, in consequence of the attitude assumed by the surrounding tribes, the expense incurred was 344*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, but happily their services were not required in the field.

Public Works, &c.

12. The Colonial Church has been completed. The sea-wall extensively repaired. A strong room built for the custody of the public moneys. The manager's house at McCarthy's Island thoroughly repaired, and the Combo bridges and roads have also been under repairs.

Legislation.

13. Little was done during the year, with the exception of an Ordinance to restrain the erection of inflammable buildings, in consequence of previous disastrous fires, and an Ordinance to confirm certain Ordinances that had been passed, relative to which a doubt had arisen as to their legal effect. This latter Ordinance was superseded by an Order in Council, although few Ordinances were enacted. Much legislation is required to put the machinery of Government on a sound basis. The old Ordinances of the Colony were enacted at a time when no communication existed, except by sailing vessels, and those providing appointments contained a penalty clause for persons refusing to accept them.

The present system of almost all the merchants being Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests does not work satisfactorily, and now that frequent steam communication has been introduced, and the aspect of the place changing, it will be necessary to alter the Ordinances to meet the exigencies of the present time.

Pensions.

14. The late Colonial Secretary and Queen's Advocate have been added to the list of the Colony.

Consuls.

15. The French Consul having died, Monsieur Braouezec was appointed as the representative of that nation and Belgium at Bathurst.

Population.

16. Population is much the same as the previous year, but I fail to find 167 white males, as appears in the Blue Book for 1867.

The population consists of the various tribes of natives, who each occupy a separate part of the town which is called after the respective names of the tribes. A large number of natives emigrate to Bathurst from the Upper River for work during the dry season, and are commonly called "Wad-gis." They are the usual day labourers. They leave towards the rains for the purpose of putting in their ground-nut crops.

The registered births appear to be only a third of the deaths, but this is accounted for by the fact that an order is requisite before a body can be buried, whereas, although it is compulsory to register the birth of a child, yet the natives frequently neglect, and do not take the trouble to do so. From the migratory character of the population but little good is effected or impression made from their casual contact with civilization, and I believe they are just as barbarous at the present day as they were fifty years ago. The stamina of the people is at a very low ebb from the depressing influence of the climate, as well as from the nature of their trade, and none of the energy, spirit, or determination of the Saxons is to be found in the native African. The constant petty wars and cruelty of the natives in the country surrounding these settlements afford no prospect of even keeping up the standard of the population.

Friendly Societies, &c., &c.

17. There is only one Society registered, but there are several existing in the place, and prove very troublesome. An Ordinance was passed to declare them illegal unless registered, but like most of the legislation of the Colony, proved utterly useless in its practical working. There are also several kinds of clubs, all exercising a detrimental influence, which in a Colony of this nature ought not to be allowed to exist.

Ecclesiastical.

18. The Colonial Chaplain appointed to these settlements in May died in June, and the Church has been administered by a native pastor from Sierra Leone. There is a Roman Catholic Mission, consisting of two priests and two lay-brothers; a convent with four Sisters of Charity, who all come from France. The Wesleyan Methodists have a European minister and two chapels. The average atttendance of members of the two last denominations are much the same.

Education,

19. I regret to say, has been much neglected in the absence of a proper superintendence.

The Colonial Chaplain having died so soon after his arrival, not much interest was evinced in the question. 100*l.* a-year is paid to the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan missions in aid of education. Their efforts are exceedingly praiseworthy, and deserve a far better result than is generally observed. On inquiry I find that as long as the children are kept from their parents, and from the pernicious influence of a savage home, so long does the education bestowed upon them bear fruit, but when they are taken from school, which is always the case when they are old enough to be useful, their last state generally becomes worse than their first, for the little civilization they pick up is found to degenerate into a worse form of behaviour than they originally enjoyed.

Imports and Exports.

20. The total Imports during 1868 amounted to 144,524*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, out of which 67,087*l.* 6*s.* was imported from England, the balance being divided between France, the French settlements on the coast, the United States, Sierra Leone, and Leeward Coast, and the West Indian Islands. The total Exports amount to 187,357*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, 137,674*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* of which was alone exported to France, the rest to Great Britain, United States, and Leeward Coast. Both show a large falling off from the previous year, but 1867, as before stated, must be considered an exceptional one.

Shipping.

21. Shipping has not been materially affected, the only increase to be noticed is in the number of vessels in the coasting trade, which is a healthy indication of an extension of operations beyond the River Gambia.

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Agriculture.

22. The district of Combo has made some progress during the last few years, and a good deal of bush and land has been cleared. The Natives, from being protected and undisturbed by petty wars, can give that attention to the soil so essential to its production, but they still use the rude and laborious implements of native manufacture, and are naturally averse to change or improvement, comprehending nothing but what their forefathers did before them.

The stock is increasing, which will materially assist the soil, the latter, from the way in which it is farmed would otherwise soon exhaust itself. To the native system of farming I attribute the depreciation in the quality of the ground nut, which this year was bought by the merchants by weight instead of, as formerly, by measure, on account of the bad quality of the nut found in the shell. The land is merely turned over some six inches deep just before the rains, the seeds dropped in, and the crop gathered when ripe. It then lies fallow till the next rains without the slightest attempt to manure it, except burning the rubbish before the termination of the dry season, when the same process is repeated. This not only applies to Combo, but the whole of the ground nut land up the river, which has suffered considerably in consequence of the frightful cattle plague that carried off the stock in 1864 and 1865, and attacked the sheep and goats in 1868, whereby the land lost its usual supply of manure.

The nature of the soil here would easily admit of ploughs; and furrows of miles in length could be made without the slightest impediment; their oxen could be trained to the plough; but I am afraid it would cost a European his life to endeavour to teach them the use of it. The farms are principally worked by slaves, the women doing some of the hardest work. At Combo the liberated Africans work their own, as well as the time-expired soldiers who have settled there.

Manufactures, &c.

23. There are none with the exception of the native looms to make country cloths; each village has its allotted number. The gold that finds its way to Bathurst is, I believe, washed out of the loose sand by means of calabashes, but no regular system beyond this is attempted.

From the quantity and quality of the gold there is no doubt it would well repay the labour of the regular miner, would the climate and propensities of the savages permit of his existence at the gold fields.

The fisheries are carried on by canoes, and is followed as a trade by a number of Natives, who lie basking in the sun with a line suspended from each of their big toes, and some use nets. All species of tropical fish abound, but only sufficient to supply the market is taken, and not even that sometimes, as the Natives are exceedingly indolent and lazy.

Grants of Land, &c.

24. One grant of 600 acres was made in Combo on the annual rent of 10*l.* to a person who formerly occupied it under the King of Combo before the territory was ceded.

Gaol and Prisoners.

25. Thieving appears to be the principal propensity of the Natives, to which may be added lying, as shown from the return of offences. I see that 235 prisoners were in gaol during the year who had been committed before, compared with 130 of the previous year, and only 14 were whipped to 20 the year before, showing that the introduction of the shot-drill and treadwheel will have a tendency to produce a more beneficial effect, if commensurate punishments are awarded to their crimes. A coroner's jury returned a verdict on one of the prisoners "that he died from the effects of hard labour from the "shot-drill and treadwheel," but on further inquiry one was convinced that death resulted from inflammation of the lungs, a disease prevalent amongst the Natives at that time of the year. The enormous number of recommittals of prisoners is sufficient proof that the gaol is not of that inhuman character as some would wish to represent it, otherwise prisoners would not be so fond of repeating their visits. A ground plan of the gaol is attached to the Blue Book.

Charitable Institutions, &c.

26. The Colonial Hospital dispenses medicines free to the inhabitants, and is entirely supported by Government, under an Ordinance providing for its maintenance. It is also specially organized for the captains and seamen of vessels visiting this port. The average number of patients in the hospital each month was about 16; no records having

been kept by the Colonial Surgeon, no accurate statistics can be given. The principal diseases are supposed to be, paralysis, inflammation of the lungs, and fevers, sore legs and elephantiasis.

General Review.

27. In reviewing the Colony during the past year, so different from that of 1867, I fail to see the cause for so much uneasiness as was entertained by the community. Prosperous years like 1867 cannot always be expected, and a failing one succeeding an auspicious one, is apt to create more depression than had the previous year been an average one. There is no doubt that the monopoly hitherto enjoyed by one or two of the mercantile houses is fast disappearing before the activity of our French merchants and the increased communication with the outer world. And I look forward to the time when all the mails visiting the West Coast of Africa will call at Bathurst, giving the small trader the opportunity to become an importer and not to be dependent for his supply of goods on the few houses here, at whose mercy he has hitherto been. Although the interests of the few will be sacrificed to the many, yet the advantages to the community will be manifold. A field will now be open to enterprising Natives, an inducement will be held out to them to educate themselves, so as to enable them to compete in the great struggle for life, and the Natives of Bathurst and the surrounding country may rise from their present state of apathy, indifference, and subjection, to a life of competition, energy, and independence. This increase of steam communication I am in hopes may lead to the improvement of the mechanical population, who at the present moment are the most unsatisfactory class in the Colony; receiving wages from 3*s.* to 5*s.* a day, they do about as much in four hours as an English mechanic would in one. They each require an attendant to hand them their tools during work, which is of the worst description for the amount paid for it. As a sample of the ideas of this class, I may mention that I notice those that are employed about the repairs at Government House, generally saunter to their work with silk umbrellas in their hands, and being connected with societies are not particular about employment, especially as they can live on rice and fish at about 6*d.* per diem. It is very discouraging to undertake any work, as it is painful to watch the way it progresses.

The trade of the Gambia is not as it used to be, and fortunes are far more hardly earned now than formerly. Articles of commerce which once found their way down the "Gambia" have been diverted by the frequent wars amongst the Natives and the unsettled state of the country, and have had to seek other sources of outlet where it would not be interfered with in their transit.

The competition of the merchants amongst themselves has ruined the once lucrative business, each pushing his trade beyond his neighbour's, till at last very little dependence can be placed on the products of their tradings ever reaching its destination in safety.

If the merchants could agree between themselves to concentrate the trade of the Upper River at McCarthy's Island, where protection is afforded them, I fully believe that they would not be subject to the heavy losses they now suffer, nor to the harassing customs imposed upon them by each petty chief. It would be the means of bringing the produce of the country to them, instead of their sending after it and increasing the great risks they do; but I fear the merchants will no more agree amongst themselves now than they did in 1837, as told by the Rev. J. Fox in his book on the trade of the Gambia. As the system works now, a merchant sends his trader or people to some out-of-the-way place, who return with their feet or hands cut off, or perhaps not at all, having had their heads cut off, whereupon an application is made to the Government for protection. I enclose a copy of a letter as a sample of such proceeding, with the remarks thereon I made at the time. The French dollar has superseded the barter, the former means of trading, which considerably reduces the profits. The French merchants are now as numerous and influential as the English, and the rapid improvements they are making bespeak the prosperity of their undertakings. 30 July, 1869.

The climate will always be a bar to extensive European enterprise or settlement; and whereas in other countries the natives are gradually extinguished by the advent of the white man, or become merged in the civilization that overtakes them, they hold their own here from the simple nature of the climate, which is so fatal to European life. The gold fields alone that must exist in this country would attract thousands, were it not for the fear entertained of the effects of the climate. After all, I cannot but consider the state of the Colony to be precarious, when the entire trade, so to speak, depends upon the product of the ground nuts: if that was to fail—and there is no reason to suppose that such calamity is not improbable — there is nothing to fall back upon. The

GAMBIA.

quality of the nut is certainly failing, the price of oil is liable to fluctuation, and even to become a drug on the market; but generally, and from experience, when one production is a failure, another unlooked-for one supersedes it, and it is only in the interim that distress occurs, or capital is tried. Cotton has been given up because it won't pay at its present price, and I think it only requires the extinction of the ground nuts for that attention to be paid to it which it deserves. The Natives rely on the ground nut, as it is easier of cultivation.

In conclusion, I regret to add that I believe slaves are still debited and credited in the accounts of the traders, and entered under the head of cattle. Their distinctive trademark being only known to the initiated, and the once thriving foreign trade has nearly been converted into a domestic one.

28. In accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, I enclose the returns relating to vaccination, required to be forwarded at the same time with the Blue Book.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES G. E. PATEY, Rear-Admiral,
Administrator.

Mr. QUIN'S TRADER to ADMIRAL PATEY.

SIR, Bathurst, July 30, 1868.

I BEG to state, for your information, that last year about the end of September Mr. Quin sent me up with two labourers to Sabbah, a trading port of Badaboo, to trade. On the 27th of June last I sent the men up the mainland for some business; while they were on their way thither they were caught, tied, and killed by having their heads cut off. This was done by Mahaba's brother, who is residing at Yonon, a town some little distance from where I am trading.

I went and inquired into the reason of the action; I was only told that the men were killed because they were Sonninkees; that such characters were not allowed on their ground.

As the men are British subjects I therefore brought the same to your notice, trusting you will not allow such action to pass without some satisfaction.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DONGO BYE.

To His Excellency
Admiral Patey, Administrator,
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Bye was personally informed that if traders send labourers into a country who belong to a tribe that is at war with that country, they must expect to have their heads cut off.

Government House, July 30, 1869.

1868.

Return of number of children born within the year:—

Black - - -	105
Mulatto - - - -	2
White - - -	3
	110

2. Return of the number of children dying within the year at more than three months of age, 45.

3. Return of the number of children vaccinated within the year, 103.

4. Return of the number of children in respect of whom penalties or sentences of imprisonment have been inflicted under the second section of the Local Ordinance of the 2nd April, 1862, none.

An explanation of the difference, if any, between the numbers stated in Return No. 1 and the aggregate of the number stated in Return No. 2, 3, and 4.

Return No. 3 includes adults that were vaccinated during the year, besides which, from the migratory character of the population, it is impossible to make returns that do not show an unaccountable difference.

(Signed) HENRY FOWLER,
First Writer.

August 2, 1869.

GOLD COAST.

No. 8.

(No. 82.)

My Lord, Government House, Sierra Leone, July 31, 1869.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1868, accompanied by a report from the Acting Administrator.

The state of the revenue is satisfactory; and internal peace is alone necessary to render this settlement hightly prosperous and self-supporting.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY, Governor-in-Chief.

(No. 90.)

Sir, Government House, Cape Coast, 21st July, 1869.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1868, with the following Report.

Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.

2. The year 1868 was marked by an important alteration under this head. The Import Duty, which had previously been 2*l.* per cent. on all articles imported, was by the Customs Ordinance, No. III., 1867 (framed in accordance with a convention entered into between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Netherlands), raised to 3*l.* per cent. *ad valorem*, with the exception of the following articles, to which specific duties were attached, viz.:—

Ale, beer, wine, and all spirits or spirituous liquors, per old wine gallon, 6*d.*

Cigars, snuff or tobacco, in any shape, per pound, 1*d.*

Gunpowder, per pound, 1*d.*

Firearms of every description, each, 1*s.*

The anchorage duty of 3*l.* payable once in six months by any vessel anchoring in the Roads ceased, in accordance with the understanding then arrived at, to be collected.

3. In the early part of the year this increased duty sensibly affected the importations, especially in spirits. Many importers having laid in stock previously at the lower rate. The full effect of the increased duty began only to be felt towards the end of the year 1868; that year cannot, therefore, be accepted as a fair criterion of what the revenue under this head will amount to in future years.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following Table will show the relative state of increase or decrease in the Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1867 and 1868.

Revenue.

	1868.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	9,846 13 8	4,138 8 1	5,708 5 7	.. ..
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	1,029 9 11	851 8 3	178 1 8	.. ..
Licences	985 12 6	538 0 0	447 12 6	.. ..
Parliamentary grant	2,392 18 9	2,693 1 8	.. ..	300 2 11
Special receipts and other sources of revenue	1,150 2 1	2,618 15 11	.. ..	1,468 13 10
	15,404 16 1	10,839 13 11	6,333 19 9	1,768 16 9
			1,768 16 9	
Total increase			£ 4,565 3 0	.. ..

Expenditure.

	1868.	1867.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established fixed salaries and general service payments	10,821 6 7	9,231 19 10	1,589 6 9	.. ..
Special payments	330 6 8	892 5 5	.. ..	561 18 9
Ashantee war expenses	.. ..	869 0 0	.. ..	869 0 0
Remittances to Crown Agents	500 0 0	.. ..	500 0 0	.. ..
	11,651 13 3	10,993 5 3	2,089 6 9 1,430 18 9	1,430 18 9
Total increase			£ 658 8 0	.. ..

4. The Revenue received in 1868 was 15,404*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, showing an increase of 4,565*l.* 13*s.* over the Revenue of 1867. The Import (Customs) Duties produced an increase of 5,708*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, and the Licences for sale of spirituous liquors an increase of 447*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The former being an increase of over, and the latter of nearly 100 per cent. above the receipts under those heads for the year 1867. A diminution of some 1,300*l.* in the Special Receipts, as compared with 1867 (through the large amount of fines imposed in that year on rebellious chiefs) appears to be the only other noticeable feature.

The expenditure was 11,651*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of only 658*l.* 8*s.* The general increase, which is apparent throughout most of the principal items of annual expenditure, more especially as regards established fixed Salaries, Police, and Transports, having been counterbalanced by the cessation of payments on account of the late Ashantee war and other special payments.

Public Debt.

5. The amount due to the Crown Agents for expenses incurred on account of the Colony on the 31st December, 1868, was 994*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, exclusive of a sum of 500*l.* repaid them during the year, and included under the head of "Expenditure."

Military Expenditure.

6. The total expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of the settlements was 17,162*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, being 4,305*l.* 16*s.* less than in the year 1867.

Public Works.

7. No public work of any importance was undertaken this year, operations being confined simply to the cleaning of the bush roads and a few necessary repairs to the public buildings. These are works of great importance to the settlement, especially in the making of roads, both along the coast and in the interior, for opening up the trade, and affording improved means for the conveyance of produce, &c., which should be undertaken; the main difficulty consisting in the want of a competent Government Civil Engineer to superintend their construction.

Legislation.

8. The only Ordinance passed, in addition to those making provision for the service of the Settlements, was Ordinance No. 2 to regulate the Celebration of Native Customs. It seemed to have been called for in consequence of the excitement amongst the Natives arising from the contest they had been engaged in with the Elminas, but no occasion arose for putting it into operation.

Civil Establishment.

9. The only change of importance under this head occurred in the office of Collector of Customs by the promotion of Mr. Ussher to be Administrator in the year 1867, and which vacancy was supplied by the appointment of Mr. W. H. Simpson in the year 1868.

The other changes are very numerous, owing to the frequent absence of officers on leave or through sickness; a constant change of acting officers, mostly military men, taking their place in the various civil appointments of the Settlements. These constant changes have undoubtedly a most prejudicial effect upon the efficiency of the service.

Population.

10. The native population is estimated at 400,000; but this is but a rough guess, and no means exist of obtaining any more accurate information. There are about 100 Europeans, including Civil and Military Officers, Merchants, Clerks, and Missionaries, in the Settlements. To quote the Report in the last "Blue Book," "There is no system of "Registration, and very great obstacles are presented towards effecting one. The super-"stition of the Natives throws great difficulties in the way of any such scheme."

Ecclesiastical.

11. The Wesleyan and Basle Missions are the principal religious establishments in the Settlements. Both of them exercise great influence towards civilizing as well as Christianizing the people, the former principally through the aid of native teachers, whilst the latter learn the native dialects, and preach and instruct generally in the language familiar to their audience and pupils These latter combine also instruction in various industrial arts or handicrafts, such as those of carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, bricklayers, wheelwrights, &c. The results of the labours of both these sects are very apparent in humanizing the semi-barbarous native races of these Settlements. The Wesleyans reside mostly along the coast, and the Basle Missionaries in the interior of the eastern districts.

The Church of England exercises but little influence in Cape Coast, and none elsewhere. The Colonial Chaplain being able to address himself only to those who have learnt English, and who constitute but a small percentage of the population.

Education.

12. The Wesleyan and Basle Missions afford to the Natives the main sources of education; the schools maintained by the former have an average attendance of about 700, and by the latter of about 850.

The Colonial schools were at a low ebb—the girls' school being attended by only about thirty scholars. Towards the latter end of the year the boys' school, which had been in abeyance, was revived, and an immediate attendance of nearly eighty scholars was the satisfactory result.

It seems desirable that further assistance should be given by the Government towards establishing schools, not only at Cape Coast, but in the other principal towns of the Protectorate. The inability to procure competent teachers other than Dissenters appears to be the main difficulty to be surmounted.

Imports and Exports.

13. It is to be regretted that, from the mode in which the Returns of Imports and Exports from and to each foreign country were made out for the year 1867, no comparison between them and those of the year 1868 can be made. The total value, however, of the imports for the year 1868 was 140,226*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, as against 206,920*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* for the year 1867, and the total value of the exports was 148,909*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, as against 160,744*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* for the latter year.

The great falling off of nearly 33 per cent. in the imports, and nearly 8 per cent. in the exports shown by the above, is to be attributed solely to the war which broke out early in the year 1868 between the Fantees and the Elminas, consequent upon the Convention above referred to, by which the inhabitants of the country around Elmina and to the westward were, against their inclination, transferred from the protection of Great Britain to that of Holland. This war caused a great stagnation in trade for a period of nearly six months, no signs of returning activity being apparent until towards the latter end of the year. In the face of this the results may be considered as satisfactory.

On analyzing the returns the following appears worthy of notice:—

Imports.

Countries.	Total Value.		Decrease.	Increase.
	1867.	1868.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	167,412 5 5	95,360 16 8	72,051 8 9	.. ..
Foreign - - -	39,507 19 10	44,865 11 2	.. ..	5,357 11 4
		Less - -	5,357 11 4	
Total - -	206,920 5 3	140,226 7 10	66,693 17 5	.. ..

Exports.

Countries.	Total Value. 1867.	Total Value. 1868.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
United Kingdom - -	133,232 6 11	121,397 5 2	11,835 1 9	.. ..
Foreign - - -	27,512 9 7	27,512 5 3	0 4 4	.. ..
Total - -	160,744 16 6	148,909 10 5	11,835 6 1	.. ..

From the above table it will be observed that the imports and exports show a great falling off as regards Great Britain, the trade being of a general nature, whilst the foreign trade (*i.e.* with the United States, that with other countries being almost nominal) consisting almost exclusively of rum and tobacco, show an increase in the value of the imports of 5,357*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* and in exports of 4*s.* 4*d.*

It is an undesirable feature of the Returns that they prove how dependent the revenue is on the importation of spirits, the enormous consumption of which, notwithstanding a much higher duty (formerly 2 per cent. and now 6*d.* per gallon) appears to be steadily increasing.

Shipping.

14. Although the exports and imports show a large reduction in value, the shipping shows an enormous increase, over 100 per cent., as appears from the following Schedule:—

	Vessels.	1868. No.	1868. Tons.	1867. No.	1867. Tons.
Inwards	British - -	290	106,592	120	38,325
	Foreign - - -	156	46,283	91	25,371
Outwards	British - -	268	104,123	120	38,325
	Foreign - - -	147	42,910	91	25,371

The explanation is not easily to be found, but it is probable that an increased trade had been anticipated, whilst the outbreak of hostilities rendered it hopeless to land cargoes for which a market had then to be sought elsewhere.

Gaols and Prisoners.

15. No proper Returns having been kept during the year 1867 a comparison cannot be made under these heads with the Returns for 1868. The number of prisoners and the character of their crimes, principally larceny, assaults and panyarring, have, however, varied but little. Two deaths occurred during the year 1868; one of a white man at Accra, and the other of a native at Cape Coast.

The accommodation in the gaols is sufficient, but improvements in their internal arrangements are under consideration.

Health.

16. The Report of the Colonial Surgeon is unfavourable as regards the water supply, the practice amongst the native population of burying their dead in their houses, and the sanitary condition of the town of Cape Coast. The other towns of the settlement might also have been included in the same category.

The attention of the Government should undoubtedly be turned towards remedying these defects now that the revenue affords ample means for the purpose.

The health of the population, both Native and European, cannot, however, be considered as having been otherwise than good during the past year; but little sickness of any sort has prevailed, with the exception of Dracunculus, or Guinea worm, to which Europeans are but rarely subject.

The Colonial Surgeon reports strongly in favour of granting to Civil Servants at least six months' leave in Europe out of every two years' service; whilst cordially endorsing that view it cannot be too strongly impressed on persons taking up their residence in a

tropical country, and especially the Gold Coast, that an undue indulgence in stimulants, and an undue omission of constant muscular and mental exercise, is the main, and well-nigh the sole (indirect) cause of the agues, fevers and dysenteries, which are so unjustly attributed entirely to atmospheric influences.

General Remarks.

17. Two events especially mark the year 1868 in the annals of the Gold Coast. The first is the new scale of increased duties which came into operation on the 1st January, 1868, and the second war with the Elminas and the other Native tribes in the western districts who then accepted the Dutch flag.

Both of these events are the direct or indirect results of the Convention made between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Netherlands. The consequence of the first has been a large increase in the revenue, and that in spite of the diminished trade resulting through the latter.

18. The effect of the war was, in the early part of the year, very apparent in the diminished importations and the general stagnation of trade, but, active hostilities being suspended in consequence of the rains, an improvement was immediately manifested and was continued to such an extent as to more than make up the earlier deficiency.

19. The blockade of Elmina was continued up to the end of the year. The relations of the Fantees, and also of the British Government with the Ashantees, remained very unsatisfactory during this latter period. This, of course, materially affected the trade with the interior, which has been (and under more favourable circumstances to a greatly increased extent would be) carried on with and through the medium of the Ashantees and the Assins, a Fantee tribe bordering on the Ashantee country.

20. With the exception of the Elmina difficulty (which, in other words, means the hostility of the natives to the Dutch rule) nothing has occurred to weaken the influence of the British authority throughout the Protectorate; indeed, towards the latter end of the year a great advance in this respect was made. The ill-feeling which had arisen between the Government and the Fantees in consequence of the active hostilities carried on by the latter against the Dutch (with whom the British Government was on terms of alliance and intimate friendship) in spite of the remonstrances, threats, and, on some occasions, an exhibition of force on the part of the Government, was, towards the end of the year, entirely removed, and a degree of friendship, cordiality, and affection was evinced by them towards Her Majesty's Government, which may be taken as the normal state of feeling of those tribes for whom Great Britain has done so much.

21. On reviewing the past year, the state of the settlements may be, on the whole, pronounced if not as entirely satisfactory still as most hopeful.

The people are docile, peaceable, and affectionate, and require only to be treated with kindness, gentleness, firmness, and strict impartiality to make them willingly subservient to any orders or requirements that the Government may issue or demand of them. It is to be feared that the effects of the war will not be confined to the year 1868; agricultural labour having been in a great measure suspended during its progress, a scarcity of corn and other produce will probably be experienced at the next harvest.

22. The constant turmoils and troubles by which these settlements have become unpleasantly notorious, and which alone retard a rapid and continuous development in their material progress, should, I think, be ascribed rather to their geographical and political position with relation to Ashantee than to any inherent turbulent spirit amongst the people themselves.

23. The gradually increasing strength of the Fantee nation, and, in the opinion which continues to gain ground with the best informed, the decreasing power of the Ashantees through their incessant wars and barbarous practice of human sacrifice, seems to point to a time, not far distant, when that cause of disturbance may cease, and a fair opportunity be given for the development of those natural resources with which these settlements are so prolificly endowed.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) W. H. SIMPSON,
Acting Administrator.

LAGOS.

No. 9.

LAGOS.

No. 9.

(No. 33.) Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 14, 1869.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the settlement of Lagos for 1868, accompanied by the Administrator's remarks thereon.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor-in-Chief.

(No. 69.) Government House, Lagos,
August 5, 1869.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1868.

2. I trust that the police establishment, armed and unarmed, will not be considered disproportionate to a population of 115,000 souls for the maintenance of the public peace as well as for the protection of the settlement, now that the squadron is reduced and the troops to be withdrawn. The introduction of recognized titles to individual possession of land (which formerly had been owned solely by the King and chiefs) will greatly tend to elevate the condition of the people, and facilitate the collection of taxes, the election of chiefs and constabulary in country districts, gives them a feeling of sharing in the administration of the Government of the country as well as in the direct carrying out of the keeping of the peace. The erection of court houses in the several country districts, the building of bridges, and the formation of roads, will, at the same time, reconcile them to the imposition of taxes. To use a country expression, "they eat their share of what they pay, and they find that it is sweet." To refer again to another Native proverb, the African must see a thing and feel it before he believes; acting upon this, the Government is carrying out the policy above indicated previous to the collection by taxation of funds to meet the cost both of erection and maintenance of public works; but for this premature investment we shall be amply compensated by the facility with which we shall be enabled peaceably to collect the necessary taxes, and to which hitherto the population has been unaccustomed. Local administration is being introduced wherever chiefs and persons can be found capable of, and willing to assist the Government, and without infringing the integrity of British law, we are adapting it, by judicious administration, to the wants and feelings of the people. The reduction of the squadron and the withdrawal of the troops makes it the more essential that British rule and British law should be made acceptable to the people and be accepted by them, and I am happy to be enabled to report that, up to the present time, the policy of the Government for the attainment of this object has been most satisfactory.

3. From the adjacent territories a continually increasing influx of both visitors and settlers is going on, as shown by the following tabular form :—

	Six months during		Increase coming in.	Decrease going out.
	1867.	1868.		
Ferry from Lagos to mainland - -	112,668	105,765	.. ..	6,903
„ mainland to Lagos - -	116,992	136,571	19,579	.. ..

4. I regret that from the following tabular statement it is apparent that the increase of crime is keeping pace with the increase of the population :—

YEAR.	POLICE COURT.			CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT.			Total Convictions.
	Felonies.	Misdemeanours.	Total.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Total.	
1867 - -	276	647	923	9	53	62	985
1868 - -	376	949	1325	17	11	28	1353

5. *Customs.*—The following statements will show an increase in value of both imports and exports over those of 1867; the apparent decrease of revenue, viz., 289*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*, is to be accounted for by the duties on goods bonded not having been paid 31st December, 1868. The value of exports over imports being about 35 per cent., to which should be added large trade transactions in cash and bills.

Customs Revenue.

Year.	Amount. £	s.	d.
1867	25,640	0	5
1868	25,350	3	0½
Decrease	£289	17	4½

Palm Kernels.

Year.	Quantity exported. tons.
1867	2,664¾
1868	15,498¼

Palm Oil.

Year.	Quantity exported. gallons.
1867	1,644,634
1868	1,460,446

Cotton.

Year.	Quantity exported. cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
1867	7,112	1	18
1868	9,189	0	26

Beni-seed.

Year.	Quantity exported. tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
1867	298	10	0	0
1868	385	4	3	8

Ground Nuts.

Year.	Quantity exported. tons.
1867	173
1868	391

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports. £	s.	d.	Exports. £	s.	d.
1867	321,977	19	10	513,157	18	3
1868	340,815	6	10	517,253	17	11½

6. *Land Sales* show an increase of 266*l.* over that of 1867.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue, 1867	115	10	0
Ditto 1868	381	10	0
Increase	£266	0	0

LAGOS.

7. *Land Revenue* shows an increase of 261*l.* 15*s.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867 - - - - -	119	5	0
Ditto 1868 - - - - -	381	0	0
Increase - - - - -	£261	15	0

8. *Rents, exclusive of Lands,* show an increase of 47*l.* 12*s.*, owing to more gunpowder being imported.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867 - - - - -	111	7	0
Ditto 1868 - - - - -	158	19	0
Increase - - - - -	£47	12	0

9. *Postage* shows an increase of 274*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, owing to more money orders having been issued over that of 1867, as shown by tabular form.

Post Office.

	1867.			1868.		
Number of letters - - -	2385			24525		
Number of newspapers, &c. - -	1894			1377		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Income - - - -	158	6	10	432	7	6
Expenditure - - - -	95	17	4	183	19	2

Return of the Money Order Office.

Year.	Number of Offices.	Number of Orders issued.	Amount.			Number of Orders paid.	Amount.		
			£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1867 - -	1	618	4,695	7	8	31	142	6	4
1868 - -	1	2104	17,859	10	8	68	481	9	11

10. *Licences.*—Under this head appears an increase of 62*l.* over that of 1867, caused by more licences having been issued.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867 - - - -	976	0	0
Ditto 1868 - - - -	1038	0	0
Increase - - - -	£62	0	0

11. *Fees of Office.*—Decrease of 22*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, owing to fewer deeds, powers of attorney, &c., having been registered.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867 - - - -	133	17	11
Ditto 1868 - - - -	111	14	6
Decrease - - - -	£22	3	5

12. *Fines, Forfeitures and Fees of Court* show an increase of 398*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, caused by the increased population, as shown in paragraph 2.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867 - - - -	990	3	9
Ditto 1868 - - - -	1388	11	5
Increase - - - -	£398	7	8

13. *Parliamentary Grant* shows an increase of 1,875*l.* over that of 1867 drawn to meet payments in aid of local revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867	1,000	0	0
Ditto 1868	2,875	0	0
Increase	£1,875	0	0

14. *Sale of Government Property.*—There is an increase of 7*l.* 5*s.* under this head, caused by more printing work having been done for the public.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867	130	0	8½
Ditto 1868	137	5	9
Increase	£7	5	0

15. *Reimbursement in aid of Expenses incurred by Government.*—An increase of 34*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* over that of 1867 caused by more merchant seamen being admitted in hospital.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867	48	10	4
Ditto 1868	82	15	5
Increase	£34	5	1

16. *Government Vessels* show a decrease of 104*l.* 11*s.* 7½*d.*, owing to the steamer 'Eyo' being under repair and employed on service of Gold Coast Government on River Volta.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue, 1867	487	5	7
Ditto 1868	382	13	11½
Decrease	£104	11	7½

17. The whole increase of revenue for the year 1868, over and above that of 1867, amounts to 3,921*l.* 2*s.*, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total Revenue, 1867	29,974	13	11½
Ditto 1868	33,895	15	11½
Increase	£3,921	2	0

18. The decrease of expenditure, under the head of *Roads, Streets, and Bridges*, for 1868 is 95*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, caused by fewer compensations paid for houses taken for improvement of streets.

19. Under the head of *Works and Buildings* is shown a decrease of 1,367*l.* 18*s.* 1½*d.*, occasioned by fewer public works having been undertaken for the year 1868.

20. *Hospitals, exclusive of Establishments.*—Under this head is shown an increase of 116*l.* 3*s.* 10½*d.*, caused by more patients admitted into hospital who have not the means of paying; the sum of 65*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was realized from seamen admitted during the year.

21. *Rent.*—A decrease of 288*l.* 11*s.* 10½*d.* is owing to the payment for several buildings which have been bought and discontinuance of others, &c.

	£	*s.*	*d*
1. Court Hall and Customs Office, Badagry	12	10	0
2. Barracks and prison, Badagry	18	15	0
3. Powder magazine, 1864, since discontinued	135	1	4
4. Harbour-master's department	16	13	4
5. Payment of only one year's rent for the various public departments, viz., secretary's, printing and post offices, and chief magistrate's court	120	0	0
	£302	19	8

LAGOS.

22. *Miscellaneous Services.*—Under this head is an increase of expenditure over that of 1867 of 677*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, being part of refund of seizure of gin, viz., 1,023*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* from the French barque 'Conception,' which amount was ordered to be refunded by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to Monsieur V. Regis Ainé, the consignee.

23. *Transport Services* is an increase of 29*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.* over that of 1867, occasioned by more travelling allowance to officers.

24. *Establishments* show an increase of 3,877*l.* 19*s.* 0½*d.* under this head, but such is really not the case; as the salaries and allowances due for the quarter ending 31st December, 1867, not having been paid up to date, besides the salary of the Administrator now paid from the funds of the Colony.

25. *Pensions, Retired Allowances and Gratuities.*—The increase under this head of 338*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* is occasioned by the payment of the pensions due for the quarter ended 31st December, 1867, not being paid up to date.

26. *Administration of Justice, exclusive of Establishments.*—The decrease under this head of 27*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* is owing to fewer inquests being held than in 1867.

27. *Ecclesiastical, exclusive of Establishments.*—The amount of 25*l.* was balance of 100*l.* voted by the Administrator in Council towards the erection of a new church by the Church Missionary Society.

28. *Charitable Allowances.*—The sum of 50*l.* was voted by the Administrator in Council towards the establishment of the Lagos Town Library Club.

29. *Education, exclusive of Establishments.*—The sum of 300*l.* was granted towards the Hussey Fund, and also for the education of orphan children of slaves from the surrounding countries by the Administrator in Council, but only the sum of 42*l.* 14*s.* was spent on orphan children of slaves. The Hussey Fund has not as yet begun its operations in Lagos.

30. *Police and Gaols, exclusive of Establishments.*—An increase of 206*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* occasioned by—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Excess of clothing and accoutrements to civil police over that of 1867	105	6	2
2. Increased price of and issue of provisions to more prisoners admitted in gaol	101	7	0
	£206	13	2

31. *Conveyance of Mails.*—A decrease of 15*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* is owing to the discontinuance of postal communication with Abbeokuta.

32. *Interest.*—An increase of 157*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* is occasioned by the payment of full interest on loan of 3,000*l.*, and the sum due on the loan of 500*l.*

33. *Drawbacks and Refund of Duties* show a decrease of 228*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, caused by the repeal of Ordinances for allowing drawbacks on goods exported to Porto Novo.

34. *Aborigines.*—The decrease of 364*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* is owing to fewer presents made to the chiefs of the surrounding countries.

35. *Repayment of Loans.*—The remaining half of the loan of 500*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* contracted in 1865, viz., 250*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* is now paid.

36. I have now only to bring to Your Excellency's notice the increase of revenue and expenditure as shown by the following tabular form:—

REVENUE.

Heads of Receipts.	1867. £	s.	d.	1868. £	s.	d.
Customs	25,640	0	5	25,350	3	0½
Sale of Government Property	130	0	8½	137	5	9
Land Sales	115	10	0	381	10	0
Land Revenue	119	5	0	381	0	0
Rents, ex. of Lands	111	7	0	158	19	0
Postage	158	6	10	432	7	6
Licences	976	0	0	1,038	0	0
Fees of Office	133	17	11	111	14	6
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court	990	3	9	1,388	11	5
Parliamentary Grant	1,000	0	0	2,875	0	0
Miscellaneous Receipts	58	19	7	266	1	11
Surcharges recovered	5	6	10	53	2	5
Reimbursement in aid of Expenses incurred by Government	48	10	4	82	15	5
Government Vessels	487	5	7	382	13	11½
Special Receipts	..	..		856	11	0½
Balance from 1867	..	..		0	7	10
£	29,974	13	11½	33,896	3	9½

EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Disbursements.	1867. £	s.	d.	1868. £	s.	d.
Establishments	13,113	7	4½	16,991	6	5
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	1,410	16	8	1,749	3	4
Revenue Services (ex. of Establishments)	..	..		..	..	
Administration of Justice (ex. of Establishments)	72	7	4	45	3	6
Ecclesiastical (ex. of Establishments)	75	0	0	25	0	0
Charitable Allowances	..	..		50	0	0
Education (ex. of Establishments)	56	18	0	42	14	0
Hospitals (ex. of Establishments)	114	19	9	231	3	7½
Police and Gaols (ex. of Establishments)	862	12	4	1,057	4	0
Rent	665	12	0	377	0	1½
Transport Services	590	6	10½	620	6	0
Works and Buildings	5,985	18	10½	4,618	0	9
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	2,340	6	10	2,244	13	0
Conveyance of Mails	71	12	8	55	18	0
Miscellaneous Services	2,711	16	2½	3,401	4	2½
Interest	242	11	4	399	11	10
Remittances to Crown Agents	..	..		..	..	
Repayment of Loans	250	0	7½	765	10	4
Aborigines	1,366	17	11	1,002	7	9
Drawbacks and Refund of Duties	263	15	6	35	7	7½
Balance carried to next year	..	..		184	9	3½
£	30,195	0	3½	33,896	3	9½

37. I trust the results of the years 1867 and 1868 may be considered as proof satisfactory of the progress and well-being of the settlement of Lagos.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B., Governor-in-Chief. (Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER, Administrator.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. E. WODEHOUSE, K.C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 93.)

MY LORD, Government House, Cape Town, November 29, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your Lordship's consideration the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868, and I do so I confess with considerable regret for the unfavourable view which it presents of the financial condition of the Colony—a condition which I cannot say has been materially improved up to the present time, notwithstanding the constant efforts of the Government to reduce the expenditure in all its branches.

We have hitherto been quite unable to bring the revenue up to the amount absolutely necessary for meeting the requirements of the Government; on the contrary, it falls off.

In 1867 it amounted, exclusive of sums borrowed, to 617,825*l.*; in 1868, on the same calculation, only to 577,322*l.* The expenditure of 1868 was only 668,382*l.*, against 695,696*l.* in 1867, giving a saving of 27,000*l.* But as the amount due to Her Majesty's Government for the troops, 10,000*l.*, was not paid before the beginning of this year, while in 1867 the payment was made for two years, the real comparative reduction was only 7,000*l.*

Your Lordship is aware that during this year this state of affairs has involved the Government in considerable difficulties with the Parliament, which have terminated in the dissolution of the House of Assembly. In the first instance I proposed new taxes; they were refused, with a declaration that the equilibrium must be restored by retrenchment, which I was requested to plan and submit. The plan was rejected. The House of Assembly then proposed other changes, which, if they had been admissible, might

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have saved some 10,000*l.*, and recognized the fact that taxation was needed by proposing a very objectionable addition to the Import Duties, which was universally condemned, and rejected by the Legislative Council. I had, therefore, no alternative but to refer the question to the judgment of the constituencies by a dissolution; and as the annual votes for the service of the Government expire at the end of the year, the Parliament must reassemble in January, with what result it is hard to say. The constitution and institutions of the country are in excess of what it wants, and of what it is willing to pay for. But they exist, and there is reluctance to part with them. They have been kept up by constant borrowing, and it is the pressure of the interest on those loans which produces so much ill-feeling, and weighs down the energies of the country.

A great decline in the price of wool in the markets of the world has also seriously affected the farmers and traders of the Cape. One good result may, however, arise from it. Many are turning their attention to the breeding of Angora goats, for which large districts are well suited. While latterly, determined efforts have been made for the introduction of cotton, of which the highest descriptions have been found to thrive well in the Maritime Eastern Districts.

The legislative measures of the year do not call for any special notice.

I am glad to be able to say with confidence that our relations with the native tribes, that is to say, the important Kaffir races within the Colony and living between it and Natal, are very satisfactory. We have now been at peace with all for several years, and my belief is, that each year affords increasing guarantees for continued tranquillity, so long as our dealings with them are fairly and firmly regulated.

In one quarter, and with a race of whom little has been hitherto heard, the Korannas, on our northern border, we have lately had some trouble, arising out of the unusual activity of their marauding and plundering parties. It became necessary to detach against them a large body of the frontier police, under Sir Walter Currie. Their expulsion from a nest of islands in the Orange River was a work of much hardship and danger; and there is reason to fear that Sir W. Currie, to whom this Colony is deeply indebted, will never sufficiently recover from the effects of exposure to be able to resume the active duties of his office.

The leaders of these gangs have since been captured, and will be brought to trial for various crimes, and I trust that all serious troubles in that quarter are at an end.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor KEATE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 130.)

MY LORD, Government House, Natal, December 21, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Natal for 1868, and to report as follows upon its condition and prospects.

2. In my last Report I endeavoured to trace the rise and fall of the fortunes of the Colony during a series of years, and showed that, at the close of 1867, in consequence of a succession of annual deficits, its finances were burdened with a floating debt of 93,440*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* No immediate access to any fresh resources worthy of the name having been opened to the Government by the Legislature of 1867 or 1868, and the receipts from existing sources having continued to decline, this debt, at the close of 1868, had arisen to 116,572*l.*

3. So long as it was possible to have recourse from year to year to shifts and expedients to meet current expenditure, it was found convenient to maintain the theory that the depressed condition of the Colony was due to temporary causes, the operation of which would rapidly pass away. It was only when the funds relied upon were exhausted by this process that the permanent nature of these causes was to some extent acknowledged.

4. Fictitious prosperity, while it lasted, fostered the idea that the Colony had reached a point when it could afford to borrow large sums to push on works and forward objects

of a nature to be remunerative in the future. Hence its comparatively large debenture debt, which at the close of 1868 stood at 263,000*l.*, involving an annual charge upon the Revenue of 22,670*l.*

5. The Colony, having sunk back into its normal groove of progress after this period of feverish excitement, found its ordinary income inadequate, even with the strictest economy, to meet its ordinary current expenditure. It could not therefore, of course, without addition to this income, provide at the same time for the charges upon its debenture debt. This is enough to show that that debt was prematurely incurred. These charges are peculiarly burdensome now, because the period when the expenditure of the funds raised was to become remunerative has been postponed by their temporary appropriation, under the pressure of necessity, to unremunerative purposes.

6. The feasibility of diminishing current outlay, so as to leave something in hand towards keeping down these charges occupied the attention of the Government, the Legislature, and the public, during a large portion of 1868. A scheme was devised for effecting this object; but as it dealt also with the equally pressing question of providing additional sources of income, it met with very qualified approval, and the financial legislation of the year did not do all that was necessary towards bringing about a readjustment of the public burdens, and an equalization of expenditure and revenue. What it did achieve in these respects will come under review in connection with the Blue Book for the present year.

7. This legislation consisted in the passing of a law to amend the Law as to the Distillation of Spirituous Liquors; a Stamp Law, limited in duration to two years; a law for enabling the Government to impose Fees on the Registration of Native Marriages and other Native Customs; a law for imposing Lighthouse Dues; and one for temporarily increasing the rate of Postage on Inland Letters. These, taken together, were estimated to yield an addition of about 12,850*l.* to the Revenue in the present year. The two latter laws only came into operation just before the expiration of 1868. They added not more than 70*l.* to the income of that year.

8. The total actual expenditure of 1868, irrespectively of that incurred upon certain Public Works, charged nominally to a Public Works Loan, but really to another special fund borrowed for the purpose, stood at 117,000*l.* This was less than that of the previous year by 1,073*l.* The charges for the Public Works mentioned amounted to 15,200*l.*

9. Of these works two were of an important nature. The inadequacy of the building in which justice in its highest branches was administered in the city of Pietermaritzburg rendered it indispensable to proceed with the construction of a new Court House, of which the foundations had in part been previously laid. Though this edifice is still unfinished, temporary accommodation in it for the sittings of the Supreme Court has been provided from the commencement of the present year. The house set apart for the residence of the Governor of the Colony had fallen into great disrepair, and it provided, moreover, no accommodation for a Governor with a family. It has now been thoroughly repaired, enlarged, and partly furnished by the timely liberality of the Legislature at a cost of about 3,500*l.* I append a list of the furniture it now contains, together with a photograph, showing the elevation and tracings of plans of the building itself.

10. The Works for the improvement of the Harbour of Port Natal were continued during 1868 on the modified plan adopted by the Civil Engineer of the Colony. The Breakwater was carried out 721 feet. This, with the 279 feet previously executed, makes the total extension 1000 feet beyond the point at which it was abandoned by the contractors in 1864, or 2,330 feet in all from the shore. A temporary head and protection to the work has been formed by piling and planking, which will not interfere with its further extension hereafter, and within this the consolidation of the structure is going on. 28,371 tons of stone were quarried, conveyed, and tipped in in the course of the year.

11. The effect of this work has been very marked in increasing the depth of water on the Bar, and in maintaining a greater uniformity of depth than was previously the case. The present depth averages from 14 to 15 feet at high water springs, the rise of tide being about 6 feet. The expenditure during the past year was 7,245*l.* It is calculated that an extension of this Breakwater of 600 feet, which would carry it beyond the Bar itself, would increase the depth to an average of from 17 to 18 feet. But all further progress, other than the consolidation of what has been already done, awaits the supply of larger available funds, and the report of Mr. Coode, a competent authority on such matters in England, to whom all questions respecting the best mode of proceeding have been referred.

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12. The last days of the month of August were marked by the occurrence of a very violent flood, which inflicted great damage both on private and public property. Constant driving rain for nearly three days, accompanied by shifting winds and thunderstorms, ended in the total or partial destruction of several public structures. The greatest loss sustained was that of the iron bridge, called the "Queen's Bridge," over the Umgeni River, near its mouth, which was entirely swept away. This structure, completed only in 1864, cost the Colony no less a sum than 19,000*l.* Other bridges were either destroyed, or more or less injured, and the roads in places rendered impassable. It became necessary to take immediate measures for re-establishing communication and traffic. In the existing state of the finances this could only be done by the negotiation of a loan. A sum of 5000*l.* was therefore raised under a special enactment and made applicable to this purpose. The charges for interest upon this loan, and its repayment in three years' time, were secured upon tolls established on the portions of the roads and on the bridges where repairs were most urgent.

13. Under this arrangement some progress was made in remedying the damages done before the termination of the year, and since the commencement of the present year the works have been actively proceeded with, as weather and circumstances have permitted. The communications were temporarily re-established very soon after the subsidence of the flood, and less inconvenience was caused to the community than might have been anticipated from the magnitude of the disaster. A new temporary bridge over the Umgeni, in place of the Queen's Bridge, some 714 feet in length and 19½ feet in breadth, was opened for traffic on the 21st January last. This was an important achievement, as all communication with Victoria county is kept up by the line of road passing across the river at this point, and it is from that county that the largest quantity of exportable produce is brought to the port for shipment.

14. Though the attention of the Legislature in its Session of 1868 was mainly occupied with financial matters, some useful measures of a general nature were passed. Among these I attach particular interest to the law "to afford facilities for depositing small "savings at interest, with the security of the Government for due repayment;" in other words, to establish a Savings' Bank. Such an institution was much wanted in the Colony, but it will take time to make it thoroughly known and appreciated. Up to the end of July last sums amounting in the aggregate to 411*l.* 10*s.* had already been deposited in the Treasury under the provisions of this law.

15. Some progress has beem made towards the introduction of an improved system of penal discipline into the gaols of the Colony. Alterations in the structure and arrangements of the gaols, as a necessary preliminary to this step, are in course of execution, but their completion is much retarded by want of funds.

16. To deal effectively with the problem in what way general education can best be spread in a Colony, situated as Natal now is, more leisure and more thought are required than either Government or Legislature can give at a time when the energies of both are absorbed in financial considerations. Though the question has been mooted both by the Government and by an individual member of the Legislature, its solution remains in abeyance. The yearly report of the Acting-Superintendent of Education, a copy of which is enclosed, exhibits the progressive working of the system in operation, but is silent as to any change or improvement in it.

17. Having looked closely into the results of the expenditure out of the Native Reserve for the industrial training of Natives, I have been unable to come to any other conclusion than that it has not been such as to justify its continuance. The Report of the Acting-Superintendent of Schools upon the native schools of all kinds receiving grants is long, and carefully drawn up, and enters into greater details than I can deal with in a general review, but I have thought it right to forward a copy of it herewith. The Tables which are appended to it exhibit at a glance the proportions established between outlay and return. In going through the report many instances of inadequate results, and some of total failure, will be observed. In some the grant has been applied to purposes differing from that for which it was intended. At Spring Vale, for instance, a printing press has been established, which is no doubt interesting and useful as producing school books for native schools throughout the Colony. But this was not the object of the grant, and it seems scarcely justifiable that 200*l.* per annum should be paid by Government to support an industrial institution which only employs two native apprentice boys. The training establishments and common schools are, upon the whole, doing better work. The Amanzimtote Central Training School, and the Ladismith Native Village School, described in the Report, deserve special mention. Mr. Illing has achieved a wonderful reform among the natives of Ladismith, and his services are acknowledged by every one. A curious difficulty, caused by having been

obliged to employ Missionary agency, is mentioned as arising at the Hermansberg Station, where the Missionaries, knowing that the Natives think the schooling to be a part of the religion they profess, do not insist on the children on their estate attending school. I concur with the Acting-Superintendent in thinking that the adult evening schools established in the towns are capable of doing much good in the indirect way on which he expatiates. Upon the whole I have thought it my duty to give notice to the institutions embraced in Table No. 1 attached to the Report of the Acting-Superintendent of Education, that the grants they at present receive will cease at the termination of this year. The project I have in view is the establishment of a central Government Industrial Training School in Pietermaritzburg, but for meeting the first cost of this, which would be heavy, the native Reserve Fund must be husbanded, and its yearly unexpended portion rescued from absorption in the ordinary ways and means of the Colony.

18. The general condition of the Native population in 1868, as represented in the annual reports of the Resident Magistrates is, on the whole, highly satisfactory. Only one very serious crime was perpetrated, and the infliction, by the authority of the Supreme Chief, of a fine upon the manufacturers of a native drink called "Shinnyana" has apparently begun to diminish the evils and disorders attendant upon its use, though these are still too prevalent. These people are described as contented and peaceable, well conducted, obedient, and loyally affected towards the Government. The hut tax was paid throughout the country with punctuality and willingness. In some districts it is reported that the labour market was well supplied, in others that native labour has been unprecedentedly scarce. It is not difficult to find local causes for this discrepancy. Here and there the locations appear to be getting overcrowded. This leads to the occupation of private lands, and the payment of rent to proprietors, the amount being generally earned by the exercise of manual labour. It is stated that the cultivation of the soil in the locations is increasing, and that in some, European methods are fast superseding the Native methods.

19. To judge of the state and prospects of the population of European descent is a more difficult matter. Disasters supervening upon inflated prosperity leaves scars upon the surface of society which it takes many years to obliterate. But the returns of imports and exports for 1868 may be used with some confidence to measure the pace at which the Colony is really marching onwards, for in that year no unusual circumstance occurred of a nature materially to hasten or to retard its progress. These show an augmentation in the value of imports into the Colony as compared with the previous year of 47,852*l.*, and in that of the exports of no less than 46,278*l.* For the present it would seem that the true policy of the Government and of the Legislature should be to shun all ambitious projects, and to confine themselves to the humble task of husbanding and developing, without unduly forcing, the ascertained, rather than the imagined, resources of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE,
Lieut.-Governor.

To Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

P.S. I enclose with the Blue Book the tabulated returns of Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums filled in as desired in your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 12th of July last. These returns have only just reached me, and I am unable therefore to do more than simply transmit them. But this is of less importance, as in my Report on the Blue Book for 1867, I gave detailed information on the subject of the Hospitals and the temporary Lunatic Asylum existing in the Colony. R. W. K.

Enclosure in Lieut.-Governor KEATE's Despatch, No. 130, of 21 December, 1869.

SIR, Office of Superintendent of Education, April 30, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to send you the following Report of the Native Schools receiving grants from the Native Reserve up to the end of 1868.

2. From the Report of His Lordship the Bishop of Natal to you, I learn that His Lordship has applied the grant put in his charge from the Reserve Fund to the following educational purposes:—a printing and bookbinding establishment, and a common native day school at Bishopstowe, and an evening adult school in Pietermaritzburg.

3. Among the works which have been issued from the press during 1868 are portions

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of the 'Pilgrim's Progress' in Zulu, Part I. of the First Lessons in Science (English), intended for elementary schools, Zulu and English; three narratives of the Bishop's Journey into Zululand (reprinted in Zulu and English) with notes; and a Dictionary, intended chiefly for the students of Zulu; portions of the New Testament in Zulu, &c.

4. Four natives have been employed during the year; one can compose excellently from English and Zulu; another from Zulu well, from English fairly; a third from Zulu only, and not very well; all are good hands at press work; two of them have had practice, and one is an expert at stitching and binding.

Bishopstowe Common School.

5. The common school was opened in November 1866, under the charge of Miss F. Colenso, assisted at the time by Mr. Delamar. The school began with thirty-nine scholars; when it was (temporarily) closed in August, 1868, it had sixty names on the register (a few of the scholars were European); fourteen had learned to write, or had made great improvement in writing, five read easily in the test book (the 2nd Book of Lessons), six could do easy sums, one had mastered the parts of speech in grammar; singing is carefully taught; at this school and in the native schools at Verulam and Umtwalumi, calisthenics have been introduced, and the natural impatience of children at having to be still turned into a means of training them, as is the case with infant-school drill.

Industrial Schools.

Industrial Schools. Indaleni.

6. There is a grant for industrial purposes to the Indaleni Mission; here four boys are under indentures, which will expire in 1871. The present head of this station, the Rev. W. H. Milward, succeeded the Rev. J. Langley in January, 1866. The English instructor, Mr. Marwick, is still there. The station has been in debt for some years as regards the industrial part of it, but in consequence of Mr. Milward's management the last instalment was paid off at the end of 1868, and Mr. Milward, under the better condition of his station, looks forward with confidence to finding regular and profitable employment for Mr. Marwick and his apprentices. The buildings (finished in September, 1867) look much like those of an English farmyard; they comprise an open shed, a closed workroom with a forge in it, and a carpenter's bench and tools, a kitchen, a room for the boys to sleep in, and another for their meals, At one gable is a good waggon and carriage shed, a part which long remained unfinished. In 1867 I found two apprentices, and not much doing; they had just finished thatching the waggon shed. Mr. Marwick has 120*l.* a-year. The work done during 1868 includes plastering, white-washing, quarrying and cutting stone, building (with stone), carting, ploughing, mowing, and field-work generally, sawing, planing, and thatching.

Indaleni Common School.

7. The common school at Indaleni is under Mr. Lewis, who has 50*l.* a-year, besides some aid from the Natives. There are fifty-two scholars, with an average attendance of thirty-eight. The teaching here is entirely in English; thirty-eight are returned as capable of reading in the 2nd Book, and sixteen beyond it; fifty-two can write English, while none can speak it; fifteen know something of geography, and six girls learn sewing.

Industrial Schools, Verulam.

8. The Verulam Mission Station has a grant for industrial purposes. The station is at present in charge of the Rev. J. Jackson, who succeeded the Rev. W. Barton, at present stationed at Edendale, early in 1868. As late as March, 1867, I found in the industrial part of this station six lads living in one wing of the building, and six girls in the other wing. This plan has been given up, and at present the girls come to work in the day time and live elsewhere. Mr. B. Cheney is the instructor. There was a carpenter's shed, and in 1867 they had some work on hand in it; this seems, however, to have been given up, and at present the only art taught is that of shoemaking and mending for the boys, and making and mending clothes for the girls. Mr. Cheney, who instructs the boys, has 100*l.* a-year, and Miss Hall, who teaches the girls, has 20*l.* a-year. There are four boys and fourteen girls. Three lads are under indentures, which will terminate in 1871 and 1873. One boy "will soon be able to make boots himself." The girls are "learning to sew." The shoemaking seems on the increase; against 108 pairs in the first half of 1868 there are 231 pairs in the last half, and they have made 125*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* during the year.

Verulam Common School.

9. The common school has suffered from the illness of its late mistress, and the delay in finding a proper successor. Miss Lamb's health gave way, and she left at the end of 1867, and since that time Miss Smart has been in charge; her salary is 36*l.* a-year. At this school also, as at Indaleni, the system of teaching is to begin with English, and to teach no Zulu. The natives bear some part of the expenses; in 1868 they paid 14*l.* 10*s.* for schooling. The school is held in the chapel, and this and all the buildings connected with the station are in good repair and well kept. The school furniture (as usual with

the Wesleyans) is good. There are twenty-one scholars, with an average attendance of nineteen. No native teacher is employed; all learn English, and thirteen of them are set down as capable of reading harder books than the 2nd Book of Lessons; fifteen can talk English, and all are exercised in writing it; thirteen have some knowledge of geography, and ten girls learn sewing.

Industrial School, Edendale.

10. Edendale Mission Station is at present under the charge of the Rev. W. Barton, who came here from Verulam in March, 1869. The station is in a village about seven miles from Pietermaritzburg; the village is occupied by a mixed race; it is laid out in streets, has some substantial brick houses, a large new chapel, beside the buildings belonging to the station itself. The village has suffered severely for its civilization, and Mr. Barton considers the days of its prosperity (if not of its existence) are numbered; the village was portioned out into a number of small freeholds (of twenty acres or thereabouts), and these have been mortgaged by their owners till very little of the land really belongs to those who linger on it; what with the present low price of land, and the expenses of Surveyor's and transfer fees, it is not at present worth while for the mortgagees to foreclose, so that the late owners still squat on the land which they cannot redeem, burdened as it is with arrears of interest at a high rate. Any remarkable improvement in the present value of land around Pietermaritzburg would soon lead to a sale of this property, and the probable disappearance of the present tenants. As it is, some of them, "imitating (unconsciously) the noble Romans," are retiring to their Mons Sacer, a farm lying north of Ladismith, for which they have paid 1400*l*, where they hope to live on land of their own, free from the money-lenders.

11. The teacher at the Industrial School is Mr. Wilkinson, a wheelwright, who has been here for several years; he receives 130*l*. Five Natives have been at work during the year, and one was under indentures, which expire with the new year.

12. The work consists of repairing waggons; they also make bedsteads, chests, drawers, window-sashes, doors, and coffins; they repair ploughs. They have had to erect a new workshop, the old one having been blown down in 1868. They use a saw-pit, but the frame of a lathe was in a state of decay; they buy their hubbs ready made in Pietermaritzburg; they have no forge. Mr. Barton finds it difficult to secure apprentices; the Natives (he says) are unwilling to bind their children for long periods.

13. Mr. Barton thinks that the only way to make Industrial Schools really of service would be by establishing a central school (as at Amanzimtote) under a general system and discipline.

Edendale Common Schools.

14. There are two common schools, one in charge of Miss Henry, who receives 75*l*. a-year; she has lately arrived from England, and took charge in 1868. The teaching is mainly of the infant-school kind. The school is held in a good large room, built of stone, cool, and shaded by trees, and in fair repair; the furniture, such as desks, board, table, and forms, is substantial, and in good repair (as is the case in Wesleyan schools). The teaching is directly in English.

15. The other common school is composed of lads from eleven to sixteen or so; it is held in a hovel of wattle and daub. The master is a Native who had two year's training at Amanzimtote, in the central school. In September 1868 I found twenty-four lads present; of these, seventeen read well in the 2nd Book; in arithmetic the percentage of correct answers to the sums was very high; their writing, for correctness, form, and cleanliness, admirable. Here the teaching is in English, with the advantage that the master, himself a Native, knows the difficulties of his scholars, and thinking in a common language with them can help them to translate their thoughts into a language foreign alike to master and scholar. The discipline seems sharp (too sharp Mr. Barton thought), but I saw no sign of the scholars being cowed; on the contrary, they were brisk, orderly, and attentive.

16. The two schools together number 127 scholars, with an average attendance of seventy-six. The Native master gets 27*l*. a-year. The Natives contributed towards these schools in 1868 the sum of 39*l*. 6*s*. 6*d*. Forty-three are set down as capable of reading in the 2nd Book, and thirty-nine in more advanced books; forty-three can talk and write English; fourteen can do sums in the four rules, no one knows anything of geography, and thirty girls learn sewing.

Industrial Schools. Spring Vale.

17. The Industrial Grant to the Spring Vale Mission Station supports a Printing Press in charge of Mr. Blair, with a salary of 116*l*. a-year. There are two apprentices under five years indentures. From this press the 'Folk Lore' has been issued; it is arranged in parallel columns of English and Zulu. These books have been adopted by the American and Hermansberg Missions for purposes of education. 'The Traditions of the Creation as existing among the Amazulu' has also appeared from this press. I saw in 1867 a proof consisting of eight pages of 16mo (which had just been set up by an

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apprentice), there were twelve corrections of a slight character in it. Dr. Callaway is engaged in bringing out a series of school books.

18. The common school receives the volunteer services of an English lady; she is assisted by William, a Native, who receives 24*l.* a-year. There is also an infant school, and an adult evening school. In these schools are eighty-one scholars, with an average attendance of sixty-nine. The teaching here is based on Zulu, only eleven learn English at all, who can all read the 2nd Book and others; they can talk and write a little English; six of them can do sums in the four rules, and all of them learn geography; thirty-two girls learn sewing.

19. In this school, as in all others where the method of teaching is to begin with Zulu, the ordinary returns required by the Government by no means adequately state the amount and results of teaching; for instance, nothing in the half-yearly returns appears of such a class as I saw here, of seventeen little fellows reading with more or less facility, but all with keen interest, some of the stories from the 'Folk Lore,' just as their little white brethren rejoice in the stories of 'Jack the Giant Killer,' and the "weariness of learning" both to white and dark scholars is somewhat overpassed.

20. There were twenty-seven girls in the sewing-class when the school was visited, a clean, well-dressed set; one little girl was an exception, she had just joined. She had nothing but a greasy skin on her shoulders, and she fumbled with her needle in a hopeless manner; the superintendent said that a week would suffice to make a great difference in her way of working.

21. The furniture of the school is good, and there is an air of cheerfulness and order everywhere, the result of good discipline.

22. Dr. Callaway says that he is much straitened for room, his press and workmen are in small lean-to's, quite unfitted for the work of printing; in the meantime he has no adequate accommodation for sick people who are often requiring his services and ought to be under his immediate care, his object is to obtain 100*l.* from the Reserve Fund to enable him to lodge his press in a house apart, and by that means to leave room for a few beds for patients and for a dispensary.

High Flats.

23. There was, during 1865, a grant to a school at High Flats, a place about twenty miles to the southward of Spring Vale; to this place several kraals have come to settle, and their headmen are anxious to have a day-school among them. The Spring Vale Mission has a large school-room there, and a Sunday-school, and occasional services have been maintained. Some members of the Ogle and Fynn families are there. Dr. Callaway is anxious to have a daily school, and thinks that about sixty children would attend; he wishes to establish a young Englishman there, and asks for a renewal of the grant. I have not yet visited High Flats, but judging of the character of the settlers from such as I have seen elsewhere I think the best means would be to give them a small grant, say 16*l.*, for a Native trained to teach (as at Amanzimtote), and not necessarily attached to any Mission Station, but drawing his pay like an ordinary schoolmaster.

Industrial School. Umtwalumi.

24. The head of the Umtwalumi Mission Station, the Rev. H. A. Wilder, is at present in America. There is a small industrial grant paid to Mr. Goldstone who has been left in charge of the work-shed and property in it; he overlooks the planting and growth of some coffee. Eight hands have been employed in planting and clearing the coffee on a small plot of land, about two acres. They were putting a fence and a ditch round part of it when I visited the Station in November 1868, a few repairs are done from time to time.

Steam-engine at Umtwalumi.

25. The small steam mill for sawing and grinding mealies has been removed; work appears to have been done with it once, but the sawing gear was out of use and order in December, 1866, when I first visited this Station.

Umtwalumi Common School.

26. The Common School, which used to be under Mrs. Wilder's charge with the assistance of Mrs. Hooper has, since Mrs. Wilder's departure, been kept together by Mrs. Hooper, who receives 50*l.* a-year. There is a total of forty-nine scholars, with an average attendance of twenty-eight, all of them learn English, sixteen are as far as the 2nd Book, and ten are beyond it; six write English, none are masters of all the four rules of arithmetic, all learn geography, and twenty-nine girls learn to sew. Mrs. Hooper exhibits the only sample-book of Native girls work which I have seen; the samples are most creditable; here, as at Bishopstowe, the children are taught calisthenics.

Industrial School. Umgababa.

27. Umgababa Mission Station. There are no natives here under indentures. A coffee plantation is maintained here, but the great activity at present is at a new Station some way off, at a place called Umzimbazi. There, under the superintendance of the Rev. Arentz Tönnessen, ten natives have been employed in brickmaking and building. In all the various work of clearing woodland, including stumping, and breaking up or

burying boulders, in fencing, ploughing, and in cleaning and picking coffee. Mr. Tönnessen makes the men do all the more ordinary work of carpenters; a thoroughly practical man himself, he succeeds in making the people under him work well; he, in common with Mr. Mellen, of Umsumdusi, has a natural bent for mechanical and farm pursuits.

27A. There is a grant in support of a Printing Press at Esidumbeni. There are no apprentices, but the two Natives, when employed, receive respectively a shilling and sixpence a day. A monthly journal was issued here called 'Thwezi,' which ceased with the close of the year. Other works from this press during the year 1868, some religious tracts in Dutch, and the Book of Ezra.

Common School.

The Common School is in charge of Miss Tyler assisted by a Native teacher. Eighty have attended school, with an average attendance of forty; of these seven are in English and can read the 2nd Book, seven can speak some English, four have some knowledge of geography, and twenty girls learn sewing. Mrs. Tyler makes the boys learn sewing as well as the girls.

Amanzimtote Central Training School.

28. The Amanzimtote Central Training School deserves especial notice, both for the work that has been done, and also for the importance of the results which may be expected, if the present system is carried on.

29. The scholars have been selected from the various Mission Stations and sent to this central school for education; they live together, are well clad in European clothes, have to sit at a table as they take their meals, and they sleep on bedsteads. The school began with eighteen scholars; by the end of 1866 they already had no room for fresh applicants. In 1867 the school-room was enlarged; at present they contrive to find room for thirty-three scholars.

30. The cost of boarding and clothing these boys is about 6*l.* a head a-year; of this expense a part is borne by the parents; thus in 1867 the Natives contributed more than 34*l.*, and in 1868, 28*l.* They very in age from 14 to 18. The Rev. W. Ireland, the head of the school, considers three years of training necessary to secure permanent results.

31. There were twenty-nine lads present when I visited the school in November, 1868. The examination was conducted entirely in English. In mental arithmetic they answered with great rapidity and correctness such questions as, of what number is 15 the $\frac{3}{11}$th? $\frac{1}{8}$ths of 47 is how many? The class thus examined consisted of thirteen. In geography they went through an examination such as only the high schools, and perhaps some of Mr. Illing's scholars at Ladismith, could stand. In writing, about twenty have fine clerkly hands; several of them execute neat printing letters for headings, &c. Their maps, exhibited at an Industrial Show at Durban, gained favourable notice.

32. In arithmetic the upper division of eighteen can do any ordinary sums in weights and measures, and vulgar fractions; the whole twenty-nine took down from dictation some sums which had been given to other schools (European and Native), and the average of correct answers was very high; they even did fairly in a piece of English dictation.

33. The resources which maintain this school have been much strained, and I think it deserves any support which can be afforded. Out of this school Native teachers have already come and more will come in future. They make good schoolmasters among their own people, at no great cost; as at Edendale, in the common school at Amanzimtote, and at Ifumi.

Amanzimtote Common School.

34. There is also at this Station a good common school with eighty-five names on the register, and an average attendance of forty. It is under the charge of Miss Rood, assisted at present by one of two young Nembulos (sons, I believe, of the mill owner), these two, and a third who is teaching at Ifumi, were three head boys at the central school. The assistant Henry is to get 2*l.* a month.

35. Here again the method of teaching is first in Zulu and then in English. All learn English, more or less; twenty-eight can read the 2nd Book, and most of these can use more advanced books, for instance, ten of them read an article on "money," difficult enough for any ordinary scholar, white or native, and, so far as I could judge, Miss Rood and her assistant had managed to make some of them understand what they were reading fairly enough. In the questions in arithmetic, to which I have before alluded, they did well. There were seventeen of them in the class. There was a large sewing class, and the favourite quilts of patch-work were in hand. While the singing was under Miss Rood's control they sang correctly and softly several part songs in English, then they gave examples of hymns in Zulu under charge of the Native Teacher Nembulo, whereupon the singing became hoarse and loud.

36. There is a kraal in the neighbourhood (Mr. Rood informed me) which is anxious to have a school and master permanently among them, and the materials for building

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a school-room and house for the master are ready. This is another spot at which a Native might be placed with a small grant in aid of the local support.

37. Mr. Rood says that within no great distance of this important station there are at present sixty ploughs at work in the hands of native workmen and owners.

The Sugar-mill.

38. Here beside the central and common schools, is Nembulo's sugar-mill. Mr. Rood says that the debt on it is somewhat under 200*l.* Owing to the broken weather, they had been unable to haul cane for some days, and consequently I was disappointed in seeing the mill at work.

Wesleyan Native School, Pietermaritzburg.

39. Wesleyan Native Schools, Pietermaritzburg. This school has a total of fifty-six scholars, and an average attendance of thirty-two. An English mistress, Mrs. Mendenhall, receives 48*l.* a-year. It is a town school, and its scholars are of several shades, including black. They contribute a little towards their education. They paid 6*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* during the last year. They are all taught English; twelve can read in the 2nd Book, while nine are more advanced. Living in the town the large proportion of them talk some English, about twenty-six, and sixteen can write it. They have the quickness of town children compared with those of country schools. There are sixteen girls who sew well, making shirts, frocks, &c., and the clean state in which they contrive to keep themselves, and consequently their work, copy-books, &c., is most creditable to their mistress.

40. Ladismith Native Village. This school is held in a building situated in the middle of two *at one end of the town of Ladismith, removed from the white population, and in the centre of a number of wattle and daub huts, inhabited by a mixed set of Hottentots, Fingoes, and Zulus; they in fact form a community of their own, known as the "black village."

* *Sic* in original.

41. Over these people the Rev. W. H. Illing, unsupported at present by any religious body whatever, and receiving up till 1867 only 25*l.* from the Native Reserve Fund, has established a wonderful control; the Resident Magistrate has repeatedly stated that while the "black village" used to be a disgrace to Ladismith for its brawls, drinking, and thefts, there is at present hardly one disturbance from one year's end to the other.

42. The secret of Mr. Illing's success lies in the untiring devotion and energy which he displays towards his subjects or scholars, for it would seem that every one in the village passes beneath his sceptre "the rod of the master." I have counted them, men, women, and children, 110 present at a time; and I see Mr. Illing puts down 140 as having been in his school during 1868. He has no assistant teacher, yet he teaches Zulu, Dutch, and English, and so well that these villagers, who are teamsters, foreloopers, &c., and often absent earning their bread, write letters to each other. The returns sent in do not adequately present the actual state of this school. These returns show, it is true, that seventy-eight scholars learn English, fifty-one can read the 2nd Book, and thirty-five are more advanced; that forty-seven can talk some English, and fifty-three write it; that thirty-five can do sums in the four rules, and ten are still further advanced; that fifty-eight know geography; and thirty-six girls learn sewing. The fact is that in preparing the questions which the masters of these native schools have to answer, the superintendent never contemplated the existence of such a school as this; it is, therefore, necessary to add that there is a class of six who read the Greek Testament, and what they know of it know accurately; as, for instance, the declensions of the nouns in the chapter which they read to me, the paradigm of the active voice of the Greek verb, and the tenses of some irregular verbs such as εισερχομαι, λαμβάνω, which occurred in their reading. The same six are some way advanced in Henry's Latin Exercises; thirty are advanced in English grammar, and twenty-five in English history; sixty are advanced in their knowledge of the English and Dutch catechisms, and many can read the English, Dutch, and Zulu Scriptures. As instances of their knowledge they gave a minute account of the population, products, and various religions in the Russian Empire, described its climate, and diverged into an account of the earth's motion as producing day and night, and the seasons; the causes of and the nations engaged in the late war with Russia; described the principles contained in the Reform Bill, named the king in whose reign it became law, described some causes of the French Revolution, and gave a good account of the rise and acts of Napoleon. Perhaps the strongest instance of the work done here was presented by Mr. Illing's awkward squad, whom Mr. Illing found "his great discouragement," in whose behalf when I was representing the absolute necessity of his taking a month's holiday, Mr. Illing pleaded "if I leave these longer than five days they would forget everything;" even these read slowly, but with little hesitation, the test book (the 2nd Book of Lessons), and these, who would be a decided success in other native schools (except perhaps Amanzimtote), were those whom Mr. Illing threatened to ask the Magistrate to send to prison "for despising their opportunities."

Ifumi Station.

43. Ifumi Mission Station. The head of this Mission Station has been absent for more

than two years. It was put in charge of the Rev. F. Coillard in 1866, but has at present no resident superintendent. The school is under the general charge of Mr. Ireland, and here he has a sort of training ground for his scholars at Amanzimtote in teaching; during the year 1868 there were three Native teachers in charge, two of them from the Central School. They have had thirty-four scholars in the course of the year, with an average attendance of twenty-four. The school keeps on evenly enough (under Mr. Coillard, with Mrs. Coillard's assistance, there were over forty scholars), nine are taught English, six can read in the 2nd Book, and eleven have some knowledge of geography; their knowledge of arithmetic is very slight.

Inanda Station.

44. Inanda Mission Station. This school is under the charge of Miss Lindley, with the assistance of a Native teacher, James Dube, who gets 36*l.* a year. There have been eighty-four scholars, with an average attendance of sixty-three; twenty-eight are learning English; six are as far as the 2nd Book, eleven know the first four rules in arithmetic, and seventeen are well up in geography in Zulu, and all the girls (forty-nine) learn sewing.

Native Girls' Central Training School.

45. At this station the experiment is to be set on foot of teaching the native girls habits of civilization; the subject is noticed further on.

Umsundusi Station.

46. Umsundusi Mission Station. This school is under the management of Mrs. and Miss Mellen, and Abraham, a Native, who has returned to teaching here, he gets 1*l.* a month. In the year, thirty-six have been at school, with an average attendance of sixteen. There have been twelve scholars in English, and seven as far as the 2nd Book; six could talk and write English, two know the first four rules in arithmetic, eight had some knowledge of geography, and fourteen girls have learned sewing.

47. There is no industrial grant attached to this station, and this form of instruction is not in general favour among the gentlemen of the American Mission, but Mr. Mellen has a taste for mechanical pursuits, and for setting people to work about him. Thus I found a saw-pit in use, and a good sized work-shed, and in it an ingenuous American machine in use for making spokes, and fitting them into the hubb and felly. A native was making sashes for stable-windows. They were enlarging an out-house, and for that purpose making bricks on the lands of the station; another Native was mixing whitewash and plastering. Mr. Mellen would do well as the head of an industrial native school.

Amahlongwa Station.

48. Amahlongwa Mission Station. The Rev. S. C. Pixley is in charge of this station. The school is in charge of Miss Hull. There is no regular Native teacher at present, though in the absence of a white teacher a Native woman used to manage the school under Mr. Pixley. Thirty-seven have been at school in 1868, the average attendance has been twenty-two. Eight have learned English, three are as far in reading as the 2nd Book, and one more advanced can talk and write English, and do sums in the four first rules, and knows something of geography; and ten girls have learned sewing; under Miss Hull's care several girls make good quilts. Here Zulu is taught before English.

Mapumulu Station.

49. Mapumulu Mission Station. The school is under the management of the Rev. A. Abraham and his son; thirty-four scholars have been in attendance with an average of twenty-four. The teaching in 1866 did not venture beyond Zulu. Six learn sewing.

Ifafa Mission.

50. Ifafa Mission Station. This school, till lately under the charge of Miss Stone, is at present under the charge of Miss Griffith and Mr. A. Stone, and a Native teaching Zulu only, he has 12*l.* a year. Forty-three scholars have been in attendance, with an average of twenty-three; of these, eighteen are in English; that is to say, Miss Griffith, who only commenced in the early part of November, has begun an English class, consequently none are advanced enough to read much in any book. The same class write English, two are in easy arithmetic, four have some knowledge of geography, and seven girls learn sewing.

Dumisa's Kraal.

51. There is a Native teacher at Dumisa's Kraal about twenty miles inland at the head waters of the Umzinto; the chief sends several of his sons to him; this is another instance of anxiety on the part of the Natives for education at their kraals.

Umzumbi Station.

52. Umzumbi Mission Station. This school is under Mrs. Robbins, assisted by a Native teacher, who gets 24*l.* a year. Forty-three scholars, at an average attendance of twenty, have used the school in the year; seven are taught a little English, three can read in the 2nd Book, and four can do sums in the first four rules. All have some knowledge of geography, and eight girls learn sewing.

School-house.

53. The chapel which served as a school-house fell down just before the great rains, and has not been rebuilt. School at present is held on the Stoep, along which these little stoics sit in a single row. A family of half-breeds use this school.

Hermansberg Station.

54. Hermansberg Mission Station. There have been twenty-three scholars during the year; they are, with two exceptions, the children of the Kaffirs employed on the farm, the Kaffirs living on the estate (6000-acre farm), refuse to send their children (except

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two as above mentioned); and because the missionaries know that the Kaffirs think the schooling is a part of the religion they will not compel them to come to school.

55. The present master is Mr. Otti, one of the Hermansberg brethren. The teaching is confined to Dutch and Zulu. Here, again, the civilized language is taught them through their native tongue.

Etembini Station.

56. Etembini Native Mission. This school is also in connection with the Hermansberg Mission, and is conducted on the same principles. It has had twenty-six scholars, with an average attendance of eleven; the mistress is Mrs. Kröger, and the teaching is confined to Dutch and Zulu; sixteen can write, six can do sums in the four first rules, four have a knowledge of geography, and fourteen girls learn sewing.

Wesleyan Native Adult Evening School, Pietermaritzburg.

57. The Wesleyan Native Mission Adult Evening School at Pietermaritzburg has a large number of casual attendants, boys in service in the city; they are reckoned at 400 in the course of the year; the average attendance does not, however, exceed thirty; there is an English teacher who has 18*l.* a year, and two Native teachers at 6*l.* each. Six of them learn English, four are advanced in the 2nd Book of Lessons, and six are learning to write English. The school is under the supervision of the Rev. J. R. Cameron. The adult evening schools such as this, Mr. Allison's, and St. Mary's in Pietermaritzburg, and Mr. Langley's at Durban, are, in fact, a sort of club, where the young Natives in service meet and exchange information; it is true that teaching the alphabet, a little arithmetic, and singing in the gamut of civilization in place of their own wild and most characteristic music in minor, goes on to a certain extent, and, as at Mr. Allison's, they now learn something of geography; but the real advantage to the Colony given by these schools, consists, I think, in the moral influences which are at work in them upon the Natives while living in our towns; they find in the head of the Mission, or in their teachers, someone who has an interest in them, which they seldom receive from the masters with whom they are serving; they give and receive ideas and information. A people new or old without a literature are always gossips, like the Athenians in Socrates' time, like Palgrave's Arabians of to-day; and this new form of the Agora, which is to these simple men, equally with the refined Greek, what our newspaper is to us, has, undoubtedly, no slight influence in moulding the minds of the Native race among us, and thus influencing their future both political and social for good or evil.

Wesleyan Native Adult Evening School, Durban.

58. The corresponding Adult Evening School at Durban has an ordinary attendance of thirty also. The head of the school has lately come to the conviction shared in very generally by other heads of Native schools, that the Native must be taught English through Zulu; ten of his scholars are in English, and three are as far as the 2nd Book; twelve can write English; none as yet are able to work sums in all the four first rules of arithmetic; the Rev. James Langley is assisted in the school by volunteers, young Englishmen of his congregation in Durban.

Umzinto Native Adult Evening School.

59. Umzinto Evening Native Adult School. In June (since which I have no returns) the Rev. Joseph Barker had on his list twenty-one boys and eight girls. The school was opened also to Coolies, attached to the mill at Umzinto, but the school-house was washed away in the summer rains, and since that the school has been held some way off, at Mr. Barker's own house. I think the school has declined in consequence, mainly, of its distance from the Native houses. In November, 1868, I found seven at work; the scholars learn English; two are in the 2nd Book and one can talk a little English. I saw no Coolies; they and the Natives have to come some way after their day's work at the mill, often in darkness and wet.

Industrial Schools.

60. Appended to the Report is a table, showing the present condition of the schools receiving grants from the Native Reserve Fund. It will be seen from that table that the seven industrial grants, viz., to Indaleni, Verulam, Edendale, Spring Vale, Umtwalumi, Umgababa, and Isidumbini, teach trades to ten apprentices, and give employment to forty-one hands. In one of the returns, between thirty and forty other hands are set down as engaged in building sod-walls and stone-fences and quarrying, but as it is mentioned that they are not employed on account of the Government, they are not included in the table of the forty-one. Fourteen are girls "who are taught the "use of the needle," a training which is given in every common school, and requires no special grant.

61. The industrial grants, therefore, provide a technical training to ten lads, viz., three lads at Indaleni in house-building and farming, three lads at Verulam in boot-making, one lad at Edendale in wheelwright and carpenter's work, and two lads at Spring Vale in printing and bookbinding; and finds employment for fifty, of whom fourteen are girls learning to sew; this is done at a cost to the Government of 974*l.* a-year, a sum which appears large when compared with the results obtained by it.

62. The heads of the Missionary Station, while naturally anxious to retain for their

respective Societies the liberal grants which have been made to them, are, with hardly an exception, of the opinion that the industrial objects for which the grants were made are not those of a Missionary Station, and that they impede its primary interests just in proportion as it is sought to carry out conscientiously the contract (implied or expressed) with the Government to give to some of their catechumens a technical education; they complain of the inconveniences which present themselves when the head of a Station has to become a trader, when he has to buy materials for his scholars' work, and to sell their manufactures, to make bad debts, or to recover his claims for goods sold at law, or when unused to business he becomes involved in expenses, which may cripple his own or his Societies means for years.

63. It must be manifest to any one who considers the subject, that in order to obtain its object in the present manner, the Government has, in fact, to support a staff of white instructors scattered over the Colony, whose salaries alone amount to 572*l.* 10*s.* a-year, and while the staff is expensive the number of scholars who receive their instruction is small; this is not the fault of the gentlemen who have the management of these industrial grants; they acknowledge the difficulties which prevent a large number of apprentices or scholars from using the means of learning trades, and they mention the reluctance on the part of parents to bind their children for a long term of service; the idea that everything taught at a Station may be part of its religion, the ignorance of the head of the station himself of these matters, and his devotion to other pursuits, of more importance in his eyes, it would seem to be a more effectual, as well as more economical plan, for the Government to take the entire control of native technical instruction, and to establish a central training school with a sufficient staff of instructors.

Native Girls' Central Training Schools.

64. For a long time it has been felt by the missionaries and others interested in the improvement of the Native race that one great drawback to the permanency of civilized habits among the Natives existed in the low condition of the Native girls, many Natives profiting by their school or station-training have learned to live in square houses, to sit at table, to lie off the ground, to cook and eat, in some measure, the food of Europeans; but when they want to marry, the only women they can procure are behind them in their social habits. This difficulty has been seen by Mr. Mellen in 1864, and attempts to meet it were made by the Wesleyans at Verulam, which left, Mr. Barton thinks, certain good results upon the women's habits at Verulam, as compared with those at Edendale; at length the Rev. D. Lindley, supported by aid from America, erected a large building at the Inanda capable of holding about twenty girls. This Training School, the objects of which are somewhat similar to those of the Amanzimtote Training School for boys, has at length been opened (in March, 1869). It has nineteen girls, and is in charge of Mrs. Edwardes. The expenses of this school are particularly heavy at opening; and, if it be thought that the objects sought are worth a fair trial, this school has a claim to the present help for which Mr. Rood is asking, as well as for a grant in future.

New Leeds Native School.

65. There is a Native School at New Leeds, maintained hitherto by a group of Native families living on a farm of Mr. Hoffman's. The head of this little clan is one William Welcome. The attention of the Government was drawn to the existence of the school by the Wesleyan clergyman who occasionally visits the Natives, and I was ordered to visit the school and to report on it. I did so in March, and found fifteen scholars at work under a Native teacher, who had been trained in Mr. Ayliff's school at the Cape, The school has been kept up three years without more help than small gifts of books from the Wesleyans.

66. The master, like others of his class, teaches in English, making his scholars read English, and then turns it into Zulu. He is a well-trained master, has his pupils in capital order, and has learned what he learned of school-drill at the Cape to excellent purpose. He has been here since the school was opened by Welcome three years ago, Six of them read well in the 2nd Book, and spell well. The rest read well in the 1st Book, spelling each letter aloud together. As seems usual with these Native teachers, he had brought them on admirably in arithmetic, as far as they went; that is to say, to multiplication, what they learn they know accurately. The families are not well off, and are in fear of having to part with their teacher. Each head of a family has been subscribing 4*s.* a month. Their copy-books were models of cleanliness and of careful imitation of their examples, a rare quality.

67. They are, in my opinion, well deserving of the support of Government. A small grant of 16*l.* would, I believe, be of great use in keeping the school together, and as an encouragement to efforts on the part of the Natives in other places.

68. The Wesleyan Missionaries are anxious to establish a Central Training School for boys at Verulam, on a system similar to that already in force at Amanzimtote, and

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ask that they may convert their present industrial grant to that purpose. Dr. Callaway also is anxious to have a similar school at Spring Vale.

69. Under such masters as the Rev. William Ireland, these Native boarding schools seem capable of doing much good; and if Government cannot, or, until it can undertake to have schools of this kind entirely under its own control, it may be as well to subsidize schools managed by these or other religious bodies; but in this latter case, the principle should not be lost sight of which is acted on here (and elsewhere) with regard to white schools, viz., of paying for results; and if the Government cannot found schools, much less should it join other bodies in trying to found them, but should confine itself simply to fostering efforts which have proved their soundness by some measure of success.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) T. WARWICK BROOKS,
Act. Sup. Educa.

The Hon. the Secretary of Native Affairs.

NATIVE INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING GRANTS IN 1868.

1.—*Industrial Grants.*

	The grant.	No. of apprentices.	Occasional workmen.	Expenses, exclusive of salaries.	Income, exclusive of grants.	Salaries of Instructors.	TRADES TAUGHT.
	£.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.	
1. Indaleni - -	200	4	5	93 18 6	23 18 6	130 0	Buildings and farm work.
2. Edendale -	200	1	5	208 1 10	178 6 10	130 0	Carpenters and waggon work.
3. Verulam - -	200	3	18	161 11 4	125 19 9	120 0	Shoe and clothes making.
4. Spring Vale -	200	2	0	213 1 8	.. ..	116 0	Printing.
5. Umgababa -	100	0	8	116 10 0	5 0 0	19 10	Coffee planting and farm work.
6. Umtwalumi -	50	0	12	11 6 3	.. ..	27 0	Coffee planting and carpenters.
7. Esidumbini -	24	0	2	34 0 0	10 0 0	30 0	Printing.
Totals -	£974	10	50	838 9 7	343 5 1	572 10	

2.—*Common Schools, 1st Class, receiving each 50l.*

	Total scholars.	Average.	Native contribution.	English Teacher.	Native Teacher.
			£ s. d.		
8. Indaleni - - -	52	44	2 2 0	C. P. Lewis.	None.
9. Verulam - - -	44	28	10 10 0	Miss Smart.	„
10. Edendale - - -	127	76	24 8 6	Miss Henry.	Umzimgedwa.
11. Pietermaritzburg - -	56	32	2 8 9	Mrs. Mendenhall.	None.
12. Umvoti - - -	65	56	9 0 0	H. Grout.	„
13. Umtwalumi - - -	49	28	None.	Mrs. Hooper.	„
14. Amanzimtote - -	85	40	3 2 6	Miss Rood.	Etema and Umbilo.
15. Ladismith - -	140	69	0 16 0	Rev. W. Illing.	None.
	618	373	52 7 9		

3.—*Common Schools of the 2nd Class, receiving each 24l.*

	Total attendance.	Average attendance.	Native contribution.	English Teacher.	Native Teacher.
16. Umzumbi - -	43	20	None.	Rev. E. Robbins.	Eliphaz.
17. Ifafa - - -	43	23	„	Miss Griffith and A. Stone.	Jonas.
18. Amahlongwa - -	30	20	„	Miss Hull.	None.
19. Ifumi - - -	34	30	„	None.	Umziles.
20. Inanda - -	84	66	„	„	J. Dube.
21. Umsundusi - -	24	14	„	Mrs. and Miss Mellen.	Abraham.
22. Esidumbini - -	50	38	„	Miss Sumner.	Umbotywa.
23. Mapulumu - -	46	28	„	Mr. Abraham.	None.
24. Hermansberg - -	21	18	„	Rev. C. Otti.	„
25. Itombini - - -	26	21	„	Mrs. Kröger.	„
26. Spring Vale - -	79	67	„	.. ..	W. Ugewenda.
Totals - - -	480	345			

4.—*Adult Evening School.*

	Attendance.	Average attendance.	English Teacher.	Native Teacher.	Grant.
					£
27. St. Mary's, Pietermaritzburg	..	..	Mr. Jones.	..	50
28. Wesleyan, „	400	32	Mr. Mendenhall.	Joseph Mathew.	50
29. „ Durban - -	380	30	Rev. J. Langley.	..	25
30. Umzinto - - -	21	8	Rev. J. Barker.	..	24
Total - - -	801	70			149

5.—*Training Schools receiving* 100*l.*

	Attendance.	Average attendance.	English Teachers.	Contribution of Natives.
				£ s. d.
31. Amanzimtote - -	33	29	Rev. William Ireland and Mr. Cameron	27 15 0
32. Pietermaritzburg - -	34	13	B. S. Hobson and John McLaren.	None.
Totals - -	67	42		27 15 0

6.—*General Education Purposes.*

BISHOPSTOWE.

Printing - - 4 hands (Native), Mr. Fisher, white printer.
School - - - 60 scholars, Miss F. Colenso, mistress.

Total - - 64

Recapitulation.

	£
1. Industrial grants - - - -	974
2. Common Schools, 1st class - - -	400
3. „ „ 2nd „ - - -	264
4. Adult Evening School - - -	149
5. Training Schools - - -	200
6. General purposes - - - -	200
Total - - -	£2,187

Number of Natives under instruction during 1868.

1. Industrial Institution - - -	50 hands.
„ „ - - -	10 apprentices.
2. Common School, 1st class - -	618 scholars.
3. „ „ 2nd „ - - -	480 „
4. Adult Evening Schools - -	801 „
5. Training Schools - - - -	67 „
6. General purposes - - -	4 hands.
„ „ - - - -	60 scholars.
Total - - - -	2,090

St. Helena.

No. 12.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Admiral Sir Charles Elliot, K.C.B., to The Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 23.)

My Lord, St. Helena, April 8, 1869.

Herewith I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1868.

2. I have so recently reported to your Lordship in detail on the present financial situation of the Colony, incidental to the serious failure of the revenue during the last seven months of the past year, that it is unnecessary to revert to that subject on the present occasion. In the meantime I have the satisfaction to mention that the heavy drought with which the island had been visited for so many months past has at last given way, and that the general business of the Port is gradually improving.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K. G., (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.
&c. &c. &c.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

New South Wales.

No. 13.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

Copy of a DESPATCH from The Earl of Belmore, to The Earl Granville, K.G.

(No. 193.)

My Lord, Government House, Sydney, November 24, 1869.

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the Statistical Register* of New South Wales for the year 1868.

2. In accordance with the request contained in the Circular Despatch of date 16th February, 1865, an extra copy is forwarded for the French Government.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., (Signed) BELMORE.

&c. &c. &c.

The Registrar General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Registrar General's Office, Sydney, October 6, 1869.

I do myself the honour to forward the annexed Statistical Register for 1868, and to precede the same with the following Report, calling attention to the various returns as published in detail in the Register.

PART I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

On the 31st December, 1867, the estimated population of the Colony was 447,620; to this number there has been added during the year 1868, by excess of births over deaths, 11,260; and by the number arriving over those departing from the Colony 7,885, showing the estimated population, on the 31st December, 1868, as 466,765, being an addition to that of 1867 of 19,145, or 4·27 per cent.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

By the Vital Statistical Register just published, it will be seen that during the year 1868 there were 18,485 births recorded, 3,736 marriages were entered as having been celebrated, and 7,225 deaths were registered, as also shown in Tables 3, 4, and 5 of part I. of this Register.

Immigration.

The number of immigrants arriving at the public expense was 470, and at their own cost 753, making a total of 1,223 (exclusive of persons landing from intercolonial and foreign vessels); the total outlay for the 470 who arrived at the public expense was 11,202*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, being at the rate of 23*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* per head.

The decennial return showing the amount paid out of the revenue of the Colony on account of immigration, with the number of immigrants introduced, will be found in Table No. 120, at page 179 of the Register.

Lunatic and Invalid Institutions.

There were on 31 December, 1868, in the institutions at Tarban Creek and Parramatta 1,230 persons, of whom 780 were males and 450 were females, being 330 males in excess of females. Of the total number in the asylums 975 were British-born, 149 were Colonial-born, and 106 were Foreign-born.

The ages are shown thus—

From 1 to 20 years	46	patients
20 to 30 „	198	„
30 to 40 „	333	„
40 to 50 „	319	„
50 to 60 „	218	„
60 upwards	116	„
	1,230	

* The Tables accompanying the Registrar-General's Report are not reprinted.

Of these patients 255 males and 161 females are supposed to be curable, and 525 males and 289 females are stated to be beyond remedy.

There were the same number (11) lunatics in the private asylum at Cook's River as in the year 1867.

Charitable Institutions.

There appears by the returns furnished to be 37 hospitals, 8 benevolent asylums, 10 orphan and industrial schools (including the 3 ragged schools), and 5 miscellaneous institutions, distributed throughout the Colony, besides the before-mentioned lunatic asylums.

Hospitals.

Of the 37 hospitals, 5 were closed during the year; in the remaining 32 there were on 31st December, 1867, 438 patients; during 1868 there were admitted 3,864 patients, and during the same period the number discharged was 3,415, and 450 died, leaving 437 patients in these hospitals on 31st December last. During the year 5,661 paupers received out-door relief. The receipts were from Government 25,779*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, and from voluntary contributions 12,117*l.* 9*s.*, making a total of 37,897*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*; the disbursements during the year being 36,499*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

Benevolent Asylums.

These asylums number 8, in which there were 1,189 inmates on 31st December last, including 201 children; the receipts from Government during the year were 18,645*l.* 3*s.*, and from voluntary contributions 1,382*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*; there were admitted during the year 1,883 persons, and discharged 1,577; the deaths occurring were 289, and the paupers receiving out-door relief numbered 2,548.

Orphan Schools, &c.

The orphan schools, industrial schools, asylums for destitute children, &c., numbered 10, in which were admitted 270 during 1868, discharged 147, and 13 removed by death. The number remaining in these institutions on 31st December last (including those of 1867) was 1,848; the total receipts from Government being 21,442*l.* 1*s.*, and from other contributions 6,130*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and the disbursements amounted to 26,780*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

Provisions and Clothing.

The decennial return shows an advance in prices upon those of 1867, in the articles of wheat, flour, fresh meat, potatoes, and some minor articles. The clothing ranges much upon that of the preceding year.

PART II.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, AND CRIME.

The number of churches and chapels given in the various returns show 750, being an advance on those given for 1867 of 100; the average attendance, however, cannot be stated, as many of the returns furnished include attendances at worship at other places than churches and chapels.

The number of ministers on the Register, under the Acts 19 Vic., Nos. 30 and 34, was 453. The expense for salaries, allowances, and contingencies, was 24,662*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, and from the Church and School Estate Fund 4,565*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; making a total of 29,227*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, as shown in the following table:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Church of England	15,161	5	7
Roman Catholic Churches	8,623	15	9
Presbyterian	3,253	3	1
Wesleyan Methodist	2,189	13	2
	£29,227	17	7

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Of the churches and chapels given in the return, the following are the proportions:—

Church of England	237
Roman Catholic	152
Presbyterian	94
Wesleyan	186
Congregational, Primitive Methodist, Baptist, Free Church, &c.	81
	750

Sunday Schools.

In the 740 Sunday schools on the returns, there were 4,984 teachers, namely, 2,235 males and 2,749 females, with an average attendance of scholars of 43,794, or 21,248 male and 22,546 female; the average attendance exceeded that of 1867 by 4,282, and that of 1866 by 6,579, there being an advance in ten years of 43,794 against 16,590, or an increase of 27,204 scholars—a very marked advancement.

Week-day Schools.

The total number of private schools is given as 496, with number of scholars attending 11,486, the number of teachers being 763.

Orphan and Industrial Schools.

The number of schools receiving State assistance was 1,254, with 1,814 teachers and 66,835 pupils; the total amount paid by Government from Treasury being 116,856*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, and the amount received from voluntary contributions, fees, &c., 42,636*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, making a total of 159,493*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* Of the above schools 2 were orphan schools, 1 destitute children, 2 industrial schools, 748 schools under Council of Education (of which 289 were denominational), 496 were private schools, the University, the 2 colleges of St. Paul and St. John, the Grammar School, and the Deaf and Dumb Institute, making the total. The decennial return of schools and scholars shows a gradual increase, the year 1868 showing an advance on the preceding year of 3,652 scholars and of 74 schools.

The asylum for destitute children having 684 inmates, received from the Colonial Treasury during 1868, 8,305*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, and from voluntary contributions, fees, &c., 4,466*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

The orphan schools mustering 537 scholars, received from Government 6,438*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, being 11*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* per head. The scholars under the Council of Education, including the 289 denominational schools receiving assistance, numbered 53,752 scholars, with a receipt from Government of 87,834*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, and 34,164*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* from voluntary contributions, fees, &c. The industrial schools had 198 scholars, and received from Government 6,228*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, or 31*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* per head. The University of Sydney, St. Paul's College, St. John's College, Grammar School, and Deaf and Dumb Institute, received from Government 8,050*l.*, and from voluntary contributions 4,005*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

Crime.

Under this heading the returns show that there were in 1868 300 commitments for trial in the Supreme and Circuit Courts, and 706 for trial at Quarter Sessions, making a total of 1,006 commitments, from which 187 convictions were obtained before the Supreme and Circuit Courts, and 414 were obtained at Quarter Sessions, making 601 convictions out of 1,006 commitments.

In 1867 the commitments were 1,180, with convictions numbering 702; the convictions being less by 101 in 1868 than those in 1867, and showing a ratio per 1,000 of the estimated population at the middle of 1868 of 1·314 or 1 in 759, against 1·599, or 1 in 625, in 1867—a marked improvement.

Summary Jurisdiction.

These tables show that during 1868 there were 11,727 summary punishments in-

flicted—9,081 males and 2,646 females receiving punishment. The offences stood thus:—

	1867.		1868.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Offences against the person - -	3,521	1,515	3,543	1,476
„ „ property - - -	2,054	420	2,012	364
Drunkenness - - - -	3,228	755	3,526	806
Totals - - -	8,803	2,690	9,081	2,646
Together - -	11,493		11,727	

The increase in summary punishments in some degree neutralizing the improvement in the number of convictions before the Supreme and Circuit Courts and Quarter Sessions.

PART III.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Imports and Exports.

The Import and Export Returns seaward, to be found at pages 44 to 93, exhibit the growth of our commercial intercourse with other countries. The important position which this Colony occupies as a market for home and foreign supplies, as well as the extraordinary expansive character of its producing power, cannot but be regarded with the deepest interest by those who are watching its advancement in material wealth, and noting the development of its unlimited resources.

The general results of our trading operations in 1868 may be gathered from the following figures:—

	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Excess of Imports.	Excess of Exports.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	2,660,430	3,486,960	..	826,530
British Colonies	4,200,778	3,466,229	734,549	..
Foreign States	1,190,169	239,715	950,454	..
Total	£8,051,377	£7,192,904	£1,685,003	£826,530

It will thus be seen than the net value of our Imports exceeded that of Exports by 858,473*l.*; showing that upon our transactions of the year a balance to that amount was debited to the Colony. Our indebtedness, however, to the United Kingdom for the period stated was cancelled, and left a sum of 826,530*l.* to our credit, while the excess of Imports from British Colonies may be explained as chiefly accruing from heavy remittances in gold dust, wool, and other produce in exchange for our commodities in the regular course of trade and transit to the Home market, as instanced in the item of wool from the adjacent Colonies. The Imports in the aggregate were at the rate of 17*l.* 5*s.* per head of the estimated population at the end of the year 1868; and the Exports at the rate of 15*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* per head upon the same calculation.

Compared with the year 1867, our progress is unquestionably satisfactory.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1868 - - -	8,051,377	7,192,904
1867 - - - -	6,599,804	6,880,715
Increase - -	£1,451,573	312,189

Victoria took from us goods to the value of 1,098,891*l.*, Queensland 1,014,366*l.*, and New Zealand 485,588*l.*; in each of which Colonies the interchange appears in their favour. The Imports from the same places exceeded our Exports thither in the following amounts:—Victoria 116,886*l.*, Queensland 491,604*l.*, New Zealand 235,348*l.* The Imports from South Australia reached 272,283*l.*, against an export value of 33,014*l.*, the excess 239,269*l.* being chiefly for flour and grain.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Imports.

The following statement shows the principal articles which exceeded in value those imported in 1867.

Articles.	1867.	1868.	Excess, 1868.
	£.	£.	£.
Alkali and Soda	9,702	14,640	4,398
Apparel and Slops	70,888	91,658	20,770
Apothecaries' Wares	20,438	25,599	5,161
Beer in Wood	141,434	150,503	9,069
„ Bottle	84,467	93,847	9,380
Blankets and Counterpanes	16,668	24,722	8,054
Butter and Cheese	8,364	11,233	2,869
Candles	45,456	52,983	7,527
Canvas	14,002	18,759	4,757
Carpets and Rugs	4,879	9,814	4,935
Carriage Materials	3,141	8,075	4,934
Chocolate and Cocoa	914	3,968	3,054
Confections and Preserves	22,428	33,815	11,387
Coin—Gold	440	9,905	9,465
Silver	4,112	6,100	1,988
Copper	575	10,000	9,425
Copper Ore	3,059	33,097	30,038
Corks and Bungs	3,422	6,168	2,746
Cottons	13,692	21,309	7,617
Cotton Waste	941	2,090	1,149
Drugs and Medicines	24,049	39,591	15,542
Earthenware and China	13,428	19,244	5,816
Flax and Hemp	1,690	13,488	11,798
Flour and Bread	212,298	329,480	117,182
Fruit—Dried, Bottled, and Green	55,685	79,622	23,937
Glass	21,092	26,788	5,696
Grain—Wheat	189,981	217,499	27,518
Barley	2,370	6,040	3,670
Rice	44,609	142,432	97,823
Haberdashery	23,830	44,967	21,137
Hats, Caps, and Bonnets	37,420	47,636	10,216
Hosiery and Gloves	16,984	26,139	9,155
Hops	7,304	12,149	4,845
Jewellery	13,952	16,330	2,378
Leather—Unmanufactured	10,726	16,980	6,254
Boots and Shoes	108,790	187,368	78,578
Linen-drapery	611,184	708,447	97,263
Live Stock—Horses	3,669	5,109	1,440
Cattle	40	3,822	3,782
Metal	33,909	37,986	4,077
Millinery	17,370	29,263	11,893
Oil—Black	4,625	8,930	4,305
Linseed	2,267	5,819	3,552
Oilmen's Stores	49,073	59,650	10,577
Opium	22,843	25,381	2,538
Paint	5,928	18,761	12,833
Pitch, Tar, Resin	4,236	7,599	3,363
Plated-ware	1,970	7,129	5,159
Potatoes	45,073	60,015	14,942
Skins—Horned Cattle	16,775	24,441	7,666
Sheep	14,866	32,588	17,722
Slates	1,656	6,493	4,837
Starch and Blue	5,480	10,138	4,658
Spirits—Brandy	87,360	167,396	80,036
Rum	45,963	59,128	13,165
Geneva	24,092	31,678	7,586
Gin	4,526	12,386	7,860
Whisky	8,710	13,775	5,065
Stationery—Paper	44,968	57,786	12,818
Tallow	33,451	66,276	32,825
Tea	318,468	486,860	168,392
Tin	4,245	11,297	7,052
Tobacco—Manufactured	78,196	80,466	2,270
„ —Cigars	20,397	22,316	1,919
Wine	69,433	77,469	8,036
Wire	3,876	14,795	10,919
Wool	342,981	784,340	441,359
Woolpacks and Bagging	13,967	22,803	8,836

Of these items of Import it will be observed that Flour, Grain, Boots and Shoes, Haberdashery, Linendrapery, Spirits, Beer, Fruits (dried and green), Copper Ore, Tallow,

and Wool, were the chief, amounting together to a total value of 1,286,825*l.* The Imports of Wool alone in 1868, from the Colony of Queensland, being valued at 771,325*l.*, against 336,197*l.* in 1867.

Comparing the Import trade, it is found that the declared value of Imports at the Custom House has risen from 6,597,053*l.* in 1859 to 8,051,377*l.* in 1868, proving that the demand has kept pace with the increase of population, and that the credit of the Colony is well sustained; for it may be taken as a safe criterion in judging the stability of a community engaged in commercial traffic, that its position is in direct relation to the confidence it inspires in the mercantile world, resting upon its ability to realize from its established sources of wealth sufficient to meet all claims against it, after providing for its own immediate necessities.

The Imports, which have decreased in value during the year under review as compared with 1867, are particularized in the table below; from which we learn that Sugar, Kerosene, Saddlery, Machinery, Iron and Steel, Cordage and Rope, are the most prominent, and would perhaps indicate that colonial industries have in some degree tended to this desirable reduction.

	1867.	1868.	Excess in 1867.
	£	£	£
Guns	7,555	1,624	5,931
Carriages	8,023	2,734	5,289
Cordage and Rope	9,450	6,088	3,362
Fish—dried and salt	16,274	12,117	4,157
Gold Dust	1,810,826	1,740,983	69,843
Hardware	89,341	81,760	7,581
Instruments—Musical	15,765	10,959	4,806
Iron and Steel	148,348	92,124	56,224
Machinery	44,622	31,123	13,499
Military and Naval Stores	21,552	18,743	2,809
Oil—Kerosene	41,063	27,388	13,675
Saddlery and Harness	28,544	18,897	9,647
Ship Chandlery	3,675	1,521	2,154
Skins—Kangaroo	2,108	365	1,743
Stationery—Books	56,432	51,668	4,764
Sugar—Raw	543,307	536,539	6,768
„ Refined	2,797	963	1,834
Sundries	4,966	2,541	2,425
Tobacco—Unmanufactured	11,916	7,622	4,294
Yellow Metal	17,640	10,211	7,429

Exports.

Amongst the articles exhibiting the largest increase are the following:—

	1867.	1868.	Excess—1867.
	£	£	£
Beer, in bottle	13,250	23,309	10,059
„ in bulk	9,109	11,553	2,444
Coal	253,259	292,201	38,942
Copper Ore	3,649	10,000	6,351
Cotton	5,754	10,905	5,151
Flour	77,899	136,996	59,097
Grain—			
Maize	92,105	144,850	52,745
Rice	16,222	45,741	29,519
Hardware	56,809	68,146	11,337
Leather—Unmanufactured	22,309	32,727	10,418
Linen and Drapery	121,072	143,933	22,861
Machinery	11,125	16,778	5,653
Molasses and Treacle	10,937	18,973	8,036
Oil—Kerosene	4,860	7,036	2,176
Opium	7,421	11,918	4,497
Provisions—Preserved Meats	19,393	30,440	11,047
Spirits—Brandy	30,179	41,091	10,912

The excess, it will be observed, is principally in Coal, Flour, Preserved Provisions, Grain, Beer, Leather, Linen and Drapery, Molasses and Spirits.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The greatest decrease was upon the undermentioned items:—

	1867.	1868.	Excess—1867.
	£	£	£
Butter and Cheese	43,771	21,337	22,434
Candles	10,132	8,530	1,602
Coins—Gold	2,041,383	1,771,005	270,378
Fruit—Green and Dried	45,288	39,659	5,629
Gold Bars	375,231	225,040	150,191
„ Dust	169,430	157,576	11,854
Grain—Wheat	21,162	4,024	17,138
Iron and Steel	10,439	5,544	4,895
Carriages and Gigs	5,676	3,729	1,947
Leather—Boots and Shoes	65,421	63,840	1,581
Oil Stores	32,061	23,699	8,362
Skins—Horned Cattle	66,556	48,811	17,745

In illustration of the remarkable progress of our commerce and the opening out of our internal resources referred to in the first paragraph of this section of my Report, I have appended a statement embracing the last four decennial periods, commencing with 1828. This arrangement conveys at a glance the history of the Colony's advancement; while at the same time it is suggestive of what may yet be achieved by the display of the same energy and enterprise which has been the means of placing New South Wales in the first rank of British Possessions. If in a space of forty years, so much has been accomplished by a comparatively small community, what may we not expect with a largely increased population with wealth at command, opportunities to employ it, and backed as these advantages are by that energetic spirit which bore the early colonists onward in their work.

	1828.	1838.	1848.	1858.	1868.
Population £	36,598	97,912	220,474	342,062	466,765
Acres under crop	71,523	92,912	164,664	223,295	434,756
Coal exported (tons)	..	1,388	6,266	113,649	548,036
„ Value £	..	1,165	2,980	89,200	292,201
Wool exported (lbs.)	834,343	5,749,376	22,969,711	13,553,835	36,548,442
„ Value £	40,851	405,977	1,240,144	1,126,486	2,693,105
Tallow exported (cwt.)	..	276	98,213	29,085	113,832
„ Value £	..	695	140,579	53,186	176,340
Gold—Value £	..	..	..	994,960	2,153,621
Shipping Inwards (No.)	137	428	996	1,141	2,073
„ (tons)	32,559	91,777	199,304	348,984	724,193
„ Outwards (No.)	69	409	945	1,254	2,218
„ (tons)	20,186	93,004	187,322	366,825	776,419
Imports—Value £	570,000	1,579,277	1,556,550	6,059,366	8,051,377
Exports „ £	90,050	802,768	1,830,368	4,186,277	7,192,904
Revenue—Ordinary £	96,713	335,294	396,863	1,379,675	2,476,700
„ Loans £	..	..	..	76,776	1,617,112
Expenditure—Ordinary £	97,952	499,396	460,531	1,209,796	2,646,303
„ Loans £	..	..	..	360,770	640,536

Port Phillip was separated from New South Wales in the year 1851, and Queensland in 1859, which will account for the apparent falling off in the wool export. These changes, of course, affect the other headings.

The figures under 1868 show the exact condition of the Colony for that year.

The decennial table at page 96 shows the export of Grain, *the produce of the Colony*. It will there be seen that 1,146,913 bushels of Maize were shipped to other Colonies—the largest export under this item during the decennial period. The export of Flour and Bread took second position during the same years, there being 7,341,500 lbs. exported. The export of Butter and Cheese, however, does not rank very favourably compared with former years. Table No. 50, at page 97, shows the advance in the item of Preserved Meats exported, accounting for the marked diminution under the head of Salt Beef, Pork, &c. The export of Wool in 1868, *the produce of the Colony*, as shown in Table 53 at page 98, was of the value of 1,879,751*l*. The total value however, of Wool shipped, including Wool the produce of other Colonies, as shown at page 93, was 2,693,105*l*.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Tallow, *the produce of the Colony*, exported in 1868, was large in quantity, being 93,901 cwt., of the value of 144,377*l.*; there having been also exported during the year 19,931 cwt., of the value of 31,963*l.*, previously received from other Colonies. The export of Coal, shown in the decennial table at page 100, was 548,036 tons, of the value of 292,201*l.*, a large item in the exports of the Colony. Gold and Coin, *the produce of the Colony*, exported, does not show so large an amount as previous years, being of the total value of 1,895,929*l.*, against 2,170,165*l.* in 1867. *Vide* Table 58, at page 100.

SHIPPING.

Inwards.

Shipping inwards.

The number of vessels entered Inwards at the several Ports of the Colony in 1868 was 2,073, representing 724,193 tons, and manned by 34,531 seamen; being an increase of 205 vessels, 77,223 tons, and 1,324 seamen, upon the returns for 1867.

With the exception of 1866, when the number of arrivals was 2,099, with an aggregate of 730,354 tons, the year 1868 exhibited the most favourable indication of activity among the shipping during any years of the last decennial period.

Nationality. Table 64.

Of the vessels which anchored in our Ports in 1868, 1,922 were British, of 662,957 tons, giving employment to 32,537 men; 151 were Foreign, of 61,236 tons, with 1,994 men.

With cargoes of ballast.

Of the British ships, 1,096 arrived with cargoes and 826 in ballast; of the Foreign, 71 had cargoes and 80 were in ballast.

Ports of Arrival.

Distinguishing the Ports of arrival, there were entered at—

	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	Tonnage.
Sydney	1,080	8	1,088	408,979
Newcastle	70	801	871	296,517
Grafton	3	48	51	5,883
Eden	9	12	21	8,511
Richmond River	5	37	42	4,303
Total	1,167	906	2,073	724,193

From whence vessels came.

The following statement shows from whence the vessels came :—

	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	76	69,328
Victoria	736	290,667
South Australia	130	44,096
Tasmania	103	23,988
New Zealand	417	126,317
Western Australia	2	340
Queensland	382	97,390
Other British Possessions	47	21,042
South Sea Islands	41	6,076
Fisheries	3	862
United States	29	12,131
Foreign States	107	31,956
Total	2,073	724,193

Outwards.

Shipping outwards.

The number of vessels cleared at Ports in the Colony in 1868 was 2,218, measuring 776,449 tons. Of these 2,064 were British, of a total capacity of 711,707 tons, with an aggregate crew of 39,154 men; and 154 were Foreign, of 64,742 tons measurement, and 2,035 seamen.

Departure with cargoes.

The vessels leaving with cargoes numbered 2,144, of 753,079 tons, while only 74, of 23,370 tons, left in ballast.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Countries and Colonies for which these vessels cleared were for—

	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	46	43,984
Victoria	717	239,530
South Australia	169	56,091
Tasmania	108	27,454
New Zealand	359	106,773
Western Australia	1	170
Queensland	338	88,341
Other British Possessions	48	26,267
South Sea Islands	43	6,876
United States of America	52	31,468
Foreign States	337	149,495
Total	2,218	776,449

Destination.

The Countries to which the various vessels sailed will be found in table 66.

Vessels built and registered.

The number of vessels built and registered in the Colony during the past ten years may be ascertained from the table below.

	Vessels Built.		Vessels Registered.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1859	15	789	60	7,200
1860	17	1,135	52	7,212
1861	13	747	56	6,487
1862	13	1,911	69	13,388
1863	27	3,072	72	12,433
1864	40	3,814	102	20,238
1865	37	3,109	74	12,708
1866	43	3,031	107	16,315
1867	36	1,882	82	11,067
1868	22	1,696	82	15,128
Total	263	21,186	756	122,176

The following is a description of those built and registered in 1868.

	Built.		Registered.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Ships	..	..	2	1,073
Barques	..	..	22	6,743
Brigs	1	254	7	1,353
Brigantines	3	319	6	636
Schooners	5	559	16	1,346
Ketches	8	278	11	361
Steamers	5	286	18	3,616
Total	22	1,696	82	15,128

PART IV.

MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.

Mills.

The number of Mills for grinding and dressing grain has decreased from 188 in 1867, to 181 in 1868. It is however slightly in excess of that returned for the three years preceding. In 1860 there were 193 Mills in operation, since which the number has continued to decline.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Upon comparing the returns for the last four years, we gather that there were—

	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
Steam Mills - - - -	135	130	155	146
Water „ - - - - -	18	13	15	15
Wind „ - - - - -	14	10	10	10
Horse „ - - - - -	8	6	8	10

It will therefore be observed that Steam Mills are gradually superseding those propelled by other motive power. The largest number of steam mills were in the Metropolitan (15), Bathurst (14), and Armidale (11) Districts.

Manufactures, &c.

Manufactories, Works, &c., in 1868, show a marked increase over those returned for the year 1867.

The classified decennial return (No. 76) presents a satisfactory picture of the progress of this branch of industrial pursuits. For the last two quinquennial periods, the following results are brought out—

	1863.	1868.
Connected with or dependent upon agriculture - -	847	2,107
Working on raw materials the production of the pastoral interest - - - - - -	213	282
Manufacture of Food of which the raw material is not the produce of agriculture and of articles of Drink	40	132
Building Materials and Plastic Manufactures - -	311	429
Machine Manufactories - - - -	82	103
Miscellaneous Works, &c. - - - -	275	509
Total -	1,768	3,562

Woollens.

Woollen Manufactures are on the increase, 227,464 yards of Cloth and Tweeds having in 1868 been sent out from five establishments. In 1864 there were only 91,800 yards manufactured.

Soap and Candles.

In 1868 there were 28 establishments for the manufacture of Soap and Candles, against 30 in the previous year. The quantity of soap produced in 1868 weighed 81,549 cwt., and of candles 14,155 cwt. In 1867, 77,773 cwt. of the first, and 26,206 cwt. of the last mentioned article were turned out.

Tobacco.

The quantity of Tobacco manufactured in 1868 was 7,808 cwt., an increase of 875 cwt. upon the previous year.

The number of factories in 1868 exceeded by five those in operation the year before.

Taking the mean of the last ten years, the production of Tobacco in 1868 has been satisfactory.

In 1864 the quantity returned was 8,619 cwt.—the largest of any year during the period referred to. The scarcity of the imported article, and the partial stoppage of supplies from America at that time, doubtless gave an impetus to the growth and manufacture of the weed.

Boiling-down Establishments.

The Boiling-down Establishments in 1868 had increased from 40 in 1867 to 49.

The number of sheep, cattle, and pigs, slaughtered for tallow and lard during each year of the last quinquennial period is given below:—

	Sheep.	Horned Cattle.	Tallow produced.	Pigs.	Lard produced.
	No.	No.	cwt.	No.	lbs.
1864 - -	39,927	60,090	75,241	4,569	19,736
1865 - - -	10,006	44,103	73,703	2,763	10,182
1866 - -	..	2,868	19,416	1,026	6,284
1867 - - -	54,862	3,842	36,154	358	2,352
1868 - -	179,498	1,574	45,013*	466	5,180

* The quantity of Tallow exported is stated as 93,901 cwt. If these figures are correct, then the collections made by the Police as to the quantity produced at the several Boiling-down Establishments must be considerably below the mark.

It has been stated, and probably upon correct data, that the cause of the falling off in 1866 was occasioned by the high price of meat both here and in the adjacent Colonies. The item "Preserved Meat" accounts for the decrease of the article of tallow for the last two years.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The tallow produced in the Metropolitan District is principally from the refuse from butchers' shops.

Rum.

The distillation of Rum during the year 1868 reached 77,431 gallons, against 20,903 gallons in the year before.

Refined Sugar.

The manufacture of Refined Sugar increased from 119,693 cwt. in 1867 to 155,120 cwt. in 1868, a difference of 35,427 cwt. in favour of the year under review.

PART V.

PRODUCTION.

Gold by escort.

The quantity and value of Gold brought to the Mint by escort in 1868 was slightly in advance of that returned for 1867, being 229,739 ounces, valued at 894,829*l.*; for the previous year the stated value was 863,798*l.* In 1862 it was 2,212,534, the highest of any year during the decennial period.

The following abstract statement gives the quantity and value of gold received during each of the last five years, from the Western, Southern, and Northern Districts. The decline would appear to have been general, and may probably be attributed to attractions elsewhere, as well as to the migratory propensities of the mining population.

Year.	Western District.		Southern District.		Northern District.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	ozs.	£	ozs.	£	ozs.	£	ozs.	£
1864 ..	149,710	562,425	139,270	544,253	27,450	104,492	316,430	1,211,170
1865 ..	141,251	536,395	117,319	457,288	22,240	84,222	280,810	1,077,905
1866 ..	130,835	499,794	88,810	345,436	21,844	83,045	241,489	928,275
1867 ..	134,448	521,964	68,941	267,858	19,326	73,976	222,715	863,798
1868 ..	131,944	514,939	83,519	325,322	14,276	54,568	229,739	894,829
Total ..	688,188	2,635,517	497,859	1,940,157	105,136	400,303	1,291,183	4,975,977

Average price of Gold.

The average price of Gold in the Western District was 3*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* per oz.; in the Southern District 3*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* per oz.; and in the Northern District 3*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* per oz.

Miners' Rights.

The number of Miners' Rights issued in 1868 was 12,124, and in 1867 13,534; in 1864 it was 15,508.

Coal Mines.

Coal raised, and value.

The Coal Mines have been steadily advancing since 1863. The produce of 18 mines in that year is given as 433,889 tons, valued at 236,230*l.* In 1868 the quantity of coal raised from 23 mines amounted to 954,231 tons, of the value of 417,809*l.*; with every prospect of the same satisfactory progression.

Comparison of 1868 with 1867.

The Export of Coal to the neighbouring Colonies and to Foreign States in 1868, as compared with 1867, was as follows:—

	1867.		1868.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Victoria - - -	145,833	69,220	165,715	79,588
New Zealand - - -	79,576	41,255	92,605	47,336
Queensland - -	2,384	1,487	3,970	2,095
Tasmania - - -	10,919	5,887	2,074	1,681
South Australia - -	73,289	28,202	64,632	25,235
Singapore - - -	25,885	13,432	26,027	13,645
Hong Kong - -	9,807	9,858	7,990	7,318
Shanghai - - -	54,774	39,297	92,958	57,730
United States - -	22,118	13,546	33,205	22,107
Batavia - - -	15,400	9,341	17,806	9,577
Mauritius - - -	5,116	3,251	5,545	3,310
Other places - -	28,256	18,483	35,509	22,579
Total - - -	473,357	253,259	548,036	292,201

From the return it will be perceived that the trade with China and Eastern ports, in 1868, comprised 26·46 per cent. of the whole quantity of coals shipped to Foreign account. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Copper.

The quantity of Copper Ore brought to grass in 1868 is stated in the Returns to have been 3,466 tons 3 cwt., valued at 34,200*l.*; an increase of 580 tons when compared with the operations of the previous year. Copper Mines.

Iron.

The Iron Mine at Nattai continues to be non-productive. Iron.

Oil.

The Hartley Kerosene and Paraffine Company raised 13,912 tons of Shale in 1868, valued at 41,736*l.*, against 4,000 tons the year before. Kerosene Shale.

The Great Western Company has been actively employed, 1,000 tons of Shale having been raised, valued at 3,000*l.*

At the Wollongong Mine, situated on American Creek, 2,040 tons of Shale are stated to have been released from their bed, valued at 4,080*l.*

In the Yass District, the Woolgarlo Galena Mining Company has recently commenced operations. Galena.

When it is recollected that these mineral deposits were only brought under notice for the first time in the Statistical Register for 1865, the promoters would appear to have shown much perseverance and energy in rendering them so productive. As the oil extracted from the mineral is now establishing itself in the Colonial market, and is favourably spoken of by consumers, we may find it very shortly checking, if not superseding, the importation of the foreign article.

Agriculture.

The decennial return of the quantity of land occupied throughout the Colony during the year ended 31st March, 1869, and the produce of the cultivated lands, will be found at page 128 in the Appendix to this Report. From the results exhibited by this return we learn that the occupation of the land is steadily increasing, and that the breadth of cultivation has consequently been extended in a corresponding ratio.

The number of occupiers of land, exclusive of those for pastoral purposes, increased from 25,875 in 1867–8 to 26,581 in the year under review. Of these 16,510 were freeholders and 10,071 leaseholders. The former have increased at the rate of 5·67 per cent., but the latter class have decreased by 1·85 per cent. Occupiers of land.

The total extent of land held decreased from 7,737,651 acres in 1867–8 to 7,464,924 acres in 1868–9, or 3·65 per cent. With regard to tenure, 5,018,301 acres, or 67·22 per cent., were freehold; and 2,446,623 acres, or 32·78 per cent., were leasehold. The area under the freehold title had increased by 441,271 acres, while that under lease had decreased by 713,998 acres—a falling off in the aggregate holdings of 272,727 acres. Holdings.

The average quantity of land possessed by each freeholder in 1868–9 was 303¾ acres, by the leaseholder 243¾ acres.

As regards Cultivation, the freeholder had brought 277,082 acres under crop, while the leaseholder had 157,744 acres in the same condition. The whole area of cultivated lands had increased from 413,164 acres in 1867–8 to 434,826 acres in 1868–9, the increase being 21,662 acres, or 5·24 per cent. Cultivation.

The acreage of Enclosed Lands not in cultivation had risen from 3,034,675 in 1867–8 to 3,301,140 in 1868–9, being an increase of 266,465 acres, or 8·78 per cent. Enclosed Lands.

The extent of the holdings of Unenclosed Lands had decreased from 4,289,812 acres in 1867–8 to 3,728,957 acres in 1868–9, a falling off of 560·855 acres, or 15·04 per cent. Unenclosed Lands.

Comparing the average of Wheat in 1867–8 with that in 1868–9, we find that in the former year there were 149,142 acres under crop, and in the latter 164,206, a difference of 15,064 acres in favour of 1868—the produce being 1,433,807 and 1,887,085 bushels respectively. The yield per acre during 1868–9 averaged 11 bushels 29 lbs., against 9 bushels 37 lbs. in the year before. The return for the grain sown, however, fluctuates considerably according to seasons. The produce for the past year may be looked upon as favourable. Wheat.

The Wheat crop was at the rate of 4 bushels and 2 lbs. to every head of the population; but as a portion has to be set aside for seed wheat, and the average rate of con- Produce to population.

New South Wales.

sumption is calculated to be from 7 to 8 bushels per head, it follows that we produce insufficient to meet the demand by at least 50 per cent., which will account for the large importations of flour and bread-stuffs from the adjacent Colonies and elsewhere, to satisfy the requirements of the community. It will therefore be understood that before the Colony can be regarded as self-supporting in this particular, the area of land for wheat crop must be extended in a proportionate ratio—that is to say, we must increase the acreage so as to raise the produce to a level with our wants.

Maize. The Maize crop for 1868–9 exceeded that of the preceding year by 644,900 bushels. In 1867-8, 115,522 acres were planted, against 120,807 in 1868–9, being an increase of 5,285 acres, or 4·57 per cent. The yield in 1868–9 was 3,777,405 bushels, or 31 bushels 12 lbs. per acre, while that for 1867–8 gave 3,132,505 bushels, or an average of 27 bushels 5 lbs. per acre. As the manufacture of Maizena or Corn Flour is largely increasing, and the soil and climate of this Colony so favourable for the growth of this grain, we may fairly calculate that it is destined to become a very important item in farming products.

Barley. Barley covered 6,397 acres, or 1,257 acres in excess of 1867–8, The produce of the growth of this cereal increased from 62,392 bushels in 1867–8, to 94,715 bushels in 1868–9, giving 12 bushels 8 lbs. per acre in the former period, against 14 bushels 48 lbs. in that last mentioned.

Oats. The quantity of land cultivated for Oats in 1868–9 was 12,129 acres, to 13,142 acres in the year before, showing a decrease of 1,013 acres. The yield however, was in excess of that for 1867–8, which gave but 156,965 bushels, against 164,687 in 1868–9; the average return per acre being 13 bushels 34 lbs. in 1868–9, to 11 bushels 56 lbs. in 1867–8. The produce of the crop of oats in 1866–7 was 304,028 bushels, since which time it has decreased.

Potato crop. The area of land brought into cultivation for Potatoes in 1868–9 covered 16,391 acres —an increase of 951 acres when compared with the preceding year. The produce was 30,768 tons, or 2,714 tons less than that of 1867–8. The average crop for 1868–9 was 1 ton 17 cwt. per acre, while in 1867–8 it was 2 tons 3 cwt. The quantity produced in 1868–9 was less than in any year of the last sexennial period.

Hay. The Hay crop produced 80,543 tons against 91,869 in 1867–8, showing a decrease of 11,326 tons. The average per acre in 1867–8 was 1 ton 5 cwt.; in 1868–9, 1 ton 3 cwt.

Cotton. The returns for the past year fail to show the extent of land laid down for Cotton, or the quantity grown; from which it may perhaps be inferred that its cultivation is not sufficiently remunerative to induce its continuance. The produce in 1865 appears to have been the largest recorded, being 29,012 lbs.; the following year, however, it fell to 380 lbs.; the next there were no returns furnished; but in 1868 it appeared to revive, as 13,680 lbs. were stated to have been grown.

Tobacco. In 1868 the Tobacco crop covered 875 acres, against 626 acres in the year before, producing an increase of 1,890 cwt. In 1863, during the period of the American struggle, 15,315 cwt. were returned as the yield of that year, which, from the comparatively small importation of this article, probably found a ready and paying market; since the American trade has been reopened, the imports of tobacco have swelled considerably, and perhaps tended to check the enterprise of the colonial grower, who appears to have turned his land to other account.

Sugar-cane crop. The cultivation of the Sugar-cane is now becoming a permanent industry, and assuming a most important feature in agricultural operations. In 1864, when the first returns were furnished to this department, there were only 2 acres in crop which produced 280 lbs.; since then the extension of the growth of sugar has attracted considerable attention; and I doubt not that in a few years the importations of this article of general consumption will be sensibly diminished by the encouraging results of the enterprising efforts of the settlers.

To afford a clear view of what has been achieved in this branch of agriculture, I append a brief statement of the progress of the plantations from the year 1864.

For the year ended 31st March	1864,	2 acres	produced	280 lbs.
„	1865,	22 „	„	4,478 „
„	1866,	141 „	„	5,700 „
„	1867,	116 „	„	17,780 „
„	1868,	646 „	„	134,740 „
„	1869,	2,584 „	„	3,264,824 „

With such an extraordinary productive increase, and taking into consideration the fact of the canes planted within the last three or four years coming into full bearing and per-

fection, we may now with confidence look forward to a multiplied return of the yield of this new source of wealth. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The breadth of land devoted to the growth of the Grape has also largely increased. From the statement, (Table 95, page 128) we learn that in 1864 there were only 1,640 acres under cultivation, producing 136,976 gallons of wine, 2,033 gallons of brandy, and 393 tons of fruit for table use. Since then the acreage has annually been extended, and the produce has been correspondingly large, as will be seen by the following figures:— Vineyards.

			Acres.		Gallons of Wine.	Brandy manufactured.
Year ending 31st March,	1865;	acres in crop	1,849;	producing	161,298 ...	3,077
"	1866	"	2,126	"	168,123 ...	1,439
"	1867	"	2,281	"	242,183 ...	3,176
"	1868	"	2,531	"	285,283 ...	3,856
"	1869	"	3,115	"	412,587 ...	1,888

besides an average of 593 tons of fruit annually for table use.

As regards the quality of the wine produced in the Colony, competent judges affirm that it will bear a favourable comparison with the greater portion of those imported, besides being decidedly more wholesome from its purity. Its cheapness is another advantage which will aid its becoming more generally appreciated.

Pastoral.

The returns of Live Stock for 1868 present a favourable comparison with those for the previous year. Live Stock.

With the view of adding to the interest which invests this important source of Colonial wealth, I have tabulated the information possessed by the Department relating to pastoral pursuits, commencing with the year 1828, and showing the increase for each decennial period from that time. In perusing this table, it should be borne in mind that although the numbers of live stock appear large, yet from the parent stock of this Colony sprung those vast herds and flocks which now spread over Australia and New Zealand, not alone feeding their rising populations, but supplying an Export for the home market in the staple article of wool alone to the value of 1,879,751*l.* annually, as shown in the export return to be found in the Appendix.

Taking the fair average market value of live stock at the present time, we may assume that the pastoral returns represent the enormous sum of over ten millions and a half pounds. Distributing the number of stock over population, there would be for every head nearly 4 horned cattle and 32 sheep. In 1860 it was calculated that there were 7 horned cattle and rather more than 17 sheep to each person. Aggregate value.

The following figures illustrate our progress in live stock for the past forty years:— Progressive increase.

	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1828 - -	12,479	262,868	536,391	—
1838 - -	—	No returns.	—	—
1848 - -	113,895	1,752,852	11,660,819	70,875
1858 - -	200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843
1868 - -	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901

Victoria was separated in 1851, and Queensland in 1859.

In my Report preceding the table for 1867, I appended a statement showing the total number of Live Stock in the the Australian Colonies, including New Zealand; I now reproduce those figures, conceiving they will afford conclusive evidence of the astounding growth of this pastoral property. Aggregate Stock throughout Australia and New Zealand.

It appeared from the latest available returns that in 1867 there were throughout the group of Colonies 636,674 horses, 3,867,678 horned cattle, 46,812,859 sheep, and 598,430 pigs.

These numbers are the accumulated products of the comparatively insignificant returns of live stock in 1828.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PART VI.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

Coin and Gold Bullion.

We now come to the Monetary and Financial Returns, as published in tables 101 to 133 inclusive, pages 134 to 193 of the Register, from which it will be seen that on 31st December 1868, the British coins and Australian sovereigns and gold bullion in the Mint, Treasury, and the Banks, was 2,379,916*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, being an increase of that in the same coffers on 31st December of the preceding year of 598,098*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* The average of the year shows 2,009,826*l.* 1*s.*, against that of 1867 of 1,727,932*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

Notes in circulation.

The notes in circulation on 31st December, 1868, were to the value of 719,684*l.*, the average circulation being stated at 653,183*l.*; those of 1867 were respectively, in circulation 31st December, 1867, 664,818*l.*, average 531,516*l.*

The average liabilities and assets of the various banks, and of the capital and profits, are shown in the Quarterly Returns published in Table 110.

The total liabilities on 31st December 1868, for notes and bills in circulation, deposits and balances due to other banks, is given as 7,533,690*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, while the assets are shown as 11,690,225*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, including Government securities.

The paid-up capital is given at 7,634,656*l.*, and the amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring last dividend was 1,941,540*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

The returns for 1867 give 6,906,466*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* as the liabilities, and 10,574,571*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* as assets; the amount of reserved profits at time of declaring last dividend being 1,969,688*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; there being less by 28,147*l.* 14*s.* to the reserved fund in 1868 than in 1867. The assets stated in the quarterly return ending 31st December, 1868, were in advance of 1867 to the extent of 1,115,654*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; but the liabilities of 1868 are more by 627,224*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* than those for quarter ending 31st December, 1867.

Savings' Bank.

The New South Wales Savings' Bank shows that there were on 31st December 1868, 15,965 depositors, with 712,306*l.* 5*s.* to their credit; and an amount of 10,756*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* to the credit of 1,076 Crown prisoners. The Country Districts show 151,858*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* to the credit of 3,666 depositors; the amount to credit of the Reserved Fund being 107,058*l.*, and to Profit and Loss Account 19,592*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* The advance in the number of depositors was 1,730 in Sydney, and 490 in country districts. There was also an advance to the credit of the prisoners of 507*l.* 6*s.* The total deposits on 31st December of the respective years 1867 and 1868 being 711,245*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, and 874,921*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, an advance of 163,675*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in favour of 1868. The assets by investments on 31st December, 1868, were 999,282*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

Mint.

The value of Gold, at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per oz., received at the Mint for coinage in 1868 was 2,359,525*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, and sovereigns were issued to the value of 2,319,000*l.* The bullion issued, valued at the before-stated rate, was to the extent of 26,728*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* The amount of gold received at the Mint from the various Colonies was as follows:—

	Quantity. ozs.	Amount. £	*s.*	*d.*
New South Wales	232,488·660	904,422	7	10
Victoria	30,767·330	128,177	8	6
New Zealand	218,566·140	880,708	11	4
Queensland	122,457·470	440,494	12	5
Tasmania	168·210	648	14	3
California	391·920	1,447	1	10
British Columbia	175·480	614	3	5
Coin	791·630	3,012	10	6
	605,806·840	2,359,525	10	1

there being a marked diminution in each item of gold received and coin issued on the year 1867.

Railways.

The passenger traffic on the four lines of Railway for 1867 and 1868, and the total earnings, is given as follows:—

LINES.	Total Passengers.		Earnings.						Increase, 1868.			
	1867.	1868.	1867.			1868.			Passengers.	Earnings.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
North - - -	129,383	186,623	59,475	9	1	63,460	9	2	57,240	3,985	0	1
South - - -	218,541	427,307	94,911	3	9	108,191	13	8	208,766	13,280	9	11
West - -	46,779	80,688	29,722	3	5	46,936	17	8	33,909	17,214	14	3
Richmond - - -	14,576	19,945	4,963	6	11	5,769	13	1	5,369	806	6	2
Total - -	409,279	714'563	189,072	3	2	224,358	13	7	305,284	35,286	10	5

The total amount of working expenses for 1867 and 1868, as shown by the tables of those years, was as follows:—

LINES.	1867.			1868.			Increase, 1868.			Decrease, 1868.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
North - - -	40,373	11	4	36,994	3	7	—	—		3,379	7	9
South - - -	63,377	17	0	87,780	6	11	24,402	9	11	—	—	
West - - -	8,712	17	3	14,855	16	10	6,142	19	7	—	—	
Richmond - - -	4,859	16	10	4,449	17	5	—	—		409	19	5
Total - -	117,324	2	5	144,080	4	9	30,545	9	6	3,789	7	2

Electric Telegraphs.

Upon the Telegraph Lines throughout the Colony there were forwarded during 1868 an advance in the number of messages of 2425 on 1867. The extent in miles of the wire was, 1867, 3,567, and 1868, 4,385, an addition of 818 miles. The total cost of construction up to December 31st, 1868, was 169,949*l.* 16*s.*

Postal Communication.

From the decennial return at page 176, there appears to have been a diminution in the correspondence of 1868 to that of 1867, as regards the whole of the deliveries, foreign, inland, and town. The newspapers posted to foreign parts show an increase on 1867, but those posted for inland delivery were 334,750 short of those posted for same purpose in 1867. The diminution in the number of letters was as follows,—foreign delivery 42,394, inland 146,700, town 3,372. The total letters posted in 1867 were 6,748,356; in 1868 only 6,555,890 were posted. The parcels posted were also short by 72,310 of those of 1867.

Money Orders.

The remittances during 1868, through the 161 offices, by Money Orders, were to the amount of 247,488*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, represented in 56,492 orders issued; the orders paid were 50,437, of the value of 222,570*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* The amount remitted and paid was in advance of that of 1867, although the number of orders issued were less by 4,364.

Public Accounts.

The Debit and Credit Account of the Revenue and Receipts, and of the Expenditure, for the year 1868, of the Colony, stood as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balances at the credit of the various Accounts, on 31st December, 1867, were - - - - - -	587,228	3	5
Revenue and Receipts during the year 1868 - - -	4,281,611	8	7
Proceeds of Debentures sold to meet claims upon Superannuation Fund - - - - - - - -	3,980	0	0
Ditto to meet claims on Police Superannuation Fund - -	2,020	0	0
Total - - -	£4,874,839	12	0

NEW SOUTH WALES.

	£	s.	d.
The debit of the Loans Account on 31st December, 1867, appears as	960,678	2	11
Payments during 1868, on the various Public Accounts	3,480,494	4	1
Debentures issued for realization, Police Superannuation Fund	2,000	0	0
Ditto Civil Service Superannuation Fund	4,000	0	0
Balances to the credit of the various Accounts on 31st December, 1868	427,667	5	0
Total	£4,874,839	12	0

The various particulars of the receipts and disbursements will be found in Table 121, at page 180 of the Register.

The receipts were at the rate of 5*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* per head from the population, and the disbursements at the rate of 5*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* per head, being an increase of 15*s.* 3*d.* per head upon the charges for receipts, and of 1*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* per head on disbursements, as compared with the year 1867.

The principal increases in the Revenue were in the receipts from—

	£	s.	d.
Customs	64,198	13	1
Spirits distilled in the Colony	6,886	13	3
Railways	27,117	11	11
Miscellaneous	28,144	17	0

The items of decrease were—

	£	s.	d.
Refined Sugar and Molasses	2,946	13	4
Land Revenue	3,831	5	5
Assessment on Sheep	4,518	17	9
Contributions under Cattle Disease Prevention Act	3,328	10	11
Fees under Brands Registration Act	13,142	6	4
Fees of various Offices	2,082	11	6

The disbursements under the various departments of the Government are set out in Tables 123 to 125, at pages 183 to 187.

Public Debt.

A statement of the Public Debt on 31st December 1868 is given at page 188, showing the indebtedness of the Colony at 8,564,830*l.*;—at the close of 1867 it stood at 6,917,630*l.*, being a further charge against the Colony in one year of 1,647,200*l.*

PART VII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure upon Public Works during the year 1868 has been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Railways	560,840	17	10
Electric Telegraphs	12,755	0	8
Roads and Bridges	135,813	16	5
Harbours and Rivers	78,483	1	3
Dry Dock	4,721	10	7
Public Buildings	95,305	18	11
Minor Roads and Bridges	7,935	3	1

This expenditure is inclusive of that paid from the Loan Fund.

The expenditure upon the Sydney Sewerage Works was 39,649*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, and upon the Sydney Waterworks 55,690*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* These works are not under the immediate superintendence of the Government.

The expenditure upon Railways exceeded that of 1867 by 9,594*l.*; on Electric Telegraphs by 1,913*l.*; on Harbours and Rivers by 13,065*l.*; and on Public Buildings by 8,619*l.*

Meteorology.

The monthly tabulated results of observations at the Government Observatory will be found in Table 135, at pages 212 and 213.

Real and Leasehold Estates.

The value expressed in the 2,136 absolute conveyances registered during 1868 was 550,696*l.*, and in the 76 absolute assignments of leasehold estates, 19,651*l.* The grand total amount represented in the deeds registered (exclusive of leases) is 1,787,836*l.*, and the annual rental secured by the 283 leases registered is 16,750*l.* The total number of deeds registered during 1868 was 5,110. These figures are exclusive of the transactions under the Real Property Act hereafter spoken of.

Mortgages—Real Estate.

Comparing the Return of 1868 with that of 1867, it is shown that the amount lent in the first-named year was less than that of 1867 by 7,927*l.*; the total amount lent during 1868 upon real security being 648,180*l.* The amount lent upon town, suburban, country, and town and country lands conjointly, is given in the following table:—

Year.	Lent on— Town Lands.	Suburban Lands.	Country Lands.	Town and Country conjointly.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1868	249,691	68,919	306,478	23,092	648,180*

The number and amount of discharges of real securities during 1868 stood as follows:—Number, 662; amount, 399,493*l.*, against 514 of the amount of 452,933*l.* in 1867. The conveyances under mortgages were respectively, in 1868, 246,—amount, 115,492*l.*; and in 1867, 58,—amount, 33,090*l.*

Mortgages on Live Stock.

Large sums are still annually lent upon this security. During 1868 there were 370 mortgages given, representing sucurity for 1,399,479*l.*, over 2,997,019 sheep, 211,811 head of cattle, and 7,769 horses; and showing an advance upon the amount lent in 1867 of 194,468*l.* The discharges in 1868 of previous mortgages numbered 111, representing 962,596*l.*

Liens on Wool.

These have during 1868 been the source of large accommodation. 286 liens were registered, of the value of 512,121*l.* These securities are, however, only annual, and therefore much of the amount represented as lent in 1867, and perhaps previous years, is again represented as secured in 1868.

Liens on Growing Crops.

This is also an annual security. In 1867, 13,895*l.* is shown as having been lent on 171 liens; in 1868, 112 liens were registered, the amount secured being 11,308*l.*, a decrease on 1867 of 2,587*l.*

Real Property Act.

There has been a slight decrease of 20 during 1868 on the preceding year in the number of applications under this Act. The value of land included in the applications is expressed at 214,813*l.*; the fees received were consequently short of those of 1867 by 304*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The number of grants recorded is also short by 193 of those recorded in 1867; the value, however, expressed in the grants of 1868 exceeded that of 1867 by 59,057*l.* The total consideration-money stated in the transfers effected under the Act in 1868 was 111,135*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, and the amount of money secured by mortgages in the same year was 254,610*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* The total value of the land under the operation of the Act, on 31st December, 1868, was 2,661,484*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*; the total number of instruments recorded in 1868 being 1,094.

Registration of Deeds and Real Property Act conjointly.

From the two branches of registration of transactions of real and leasehold estates, it appears from the returns that the absolute transfers under the two systems were to the extent of 681,482*l.*, and the gross amount of money lent was 902,790*l.*

* Being exclusive of the amount lent under Real Property Act.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Civil Jurisdiction.

The return at page 216 shows that during 1868 the number of writs issued for cases before the Supreme Court and Circuit Courts was 2002. The cases entered for trial were 243, and judgments were signed for 247,695*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* The bills filed in Equity were 25; the petitions numbered 67; and decrees and orders, 151. Under the Testamentary Jurisdiction there were 236 probates granted, the estates being stated at 491,437*l.*, and 201 letters of administration were issued, of the stated amount of 125,498*l.* There were under the Appellate Jurisdiction from Insolvency 4 cases, and 6 from District Courts. The number of civil cases tried during 1868, in the Supreme and Circuit Courts, were,—in the Central Court, Sydney, 92 cases; in Circuit Courts, 39; before special juries there were 3 cases tried; before the District Courts there were tried 5,984 cases; verdicts were obtained in 5,329 cases for the plaintiffs, and in 655 for the defendants; of the 5,984 cases tried, 94 were before jury and 5,890 without jury. Motions were made in 30 cases for new trials, of which 12 were granted.

Insolvencies.

The Insolvencies recorded in 1868 were less than those of 1867 by 150. The voluntary insolvencies were 507, and 27 were compulsory. The stated liabilities and assets were as follow:—

		£	s.	d.
Insolvencies 534	Liabilities - -	572,651	11	10
	Assets - - -	233,098	17	5
	Deficiency - -	£339,552	14	5

Volunteer Corps.

The strength of the Volunteer Corps on the 31st December 1867 and 1868, stood as follows:—

	1867.	1868.	Increase.
Permanent Staff - - -	13	18	5
Honorary Staff - - -	..	2	2
„ Chaplains - -	..	2	2
Brigade Band - - -	31	31	..
Artillery - - - -	446	537	91
Rifles—			
Sydney Battalion - -	351	476	125
Suburban - - - -	291	532	241
Country Corps - - -	405	829	424
Cadet Corps - - -	..	70	70
	1,537	2,497	960

The total muster of the Naval Brigade on the same dates was:—

	1867.	1868.
Four companies in Sydney - - -	184	184
One company at Newcastle - - -	46	46

Land Sales.

During 1868 there were sold of Lands in the Settled Counties:—

	A.	R.	P.
140 lots of Town Lands, containing - -	63	1	37¾
180 lots of Suburban Lands „ - - -	632	0	25¾
426 lots of Country Lands „ - -	20,898	2	22
Total - - - -	21,594	1	5½

realizing 27,508*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

In 1867 the area sold was 20,544a. 0r. 14¾p., realizing 31,751*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* The deposits forfeited were, in 1868, 151*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; in 1867, 377*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*

The sales in the pastoral districts in 1868 show:—

	A.	R.	P.
358 lots of Town Lands, containing - -	202	0	11¼
140 lots of Suburban Lands „ - - -	344	1	34¼
965 lots of Country Lands „ - -	127,804	2	2½
Total - - - - -	128,351	0	8

realizing 133,470*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

The total area of land sold in pastoral districts in 1867 was 98,500a. 2r. 14½p., realizing 107,091*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* The deposits forfeited were, in 1868, 443*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, in 1867, 965*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

Conditional Purchases.

A return has been added to the Register showing the number, area, and amount realized on Conditional Purchases since 1862. It will be seen by this return that 22,995 selections have been made, embracing an area of 1,764,061 acres; the amount paid for deposits being 441,015*l.* for balance of purchase money, 81,373*l.*, and for interest 52,137*l.*, making the gross receipts 574,525*l.* The return does not give the unpaid balance of purchase money; this sum must, however, be considerable, as the selectors are at liberty to retain possession of the lands upon payment of 5 per cent. per annum upon the unpaid balance of the purchase money. Deducting the amount paid for deposit and the amount for balance of purchase money from the gross amount of sales at 20*s.* per acre, there appears still to be due the sum of 1,241,673*l.*—inclusive, however, of selections forfeited, the area of which has not been shown.

Alienated and Unalienated Lands.

The total acres of Alienated and Unalienated Lands in the various counties, and in the remaining portion of New South Wales, will be found at page 228, tables 161 and 162. The lands leased for pastoral purposes will be seen in table 164, at page 230. From this table it is shown that the total annual rent payable is 254,950*l.*

The foregoing Report having called attention to the principal features of the accompanying Statistical Register, I have only to refer inquirers for more specific information to the various returns as published.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) THEO. JAS. JAQUES,
Registrar-General.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, FROM THE YEAR 1859 TO 1868 INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commitments for Trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount realised.
																tons.	£.	acres.	£.
1859	[a] 336,572	14,415	3,295	5,642	739	32,840	753	406	177	549	247,542¾	214,684	2,190,976	5,162,671	119,701	308,213	204,371	135,167	252,627
1860	348,546	14,233	2,945	6,562	798	34,767	685	405	193	745	260,798	251,497	2,408,586	6,119,163	180,662	368,862	226,493	109,216	155,316
1861	[b] 358,278	14,681	3,222	5,343	849	37,874	820	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091	342,067	218,820	189,936	222,594
1862	367,495	15,434	3,326	6,524	925	42,211	879	514	181	859	302,138½	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,541	476,522	305,234	67,292 [c] 357,280	216,988
1863	378,934	15,679	3,314	6,653	976	46,810	887	497	180	1,768	307,035	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,899	433,889	236,230	92,016 [c] 259,369	192,113
1864	392,589	16,881	3,480	6,445	1,022	48,427	975	590	174	2,084	318,854	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154	549,012	270,171	58,216 [c] 165,616	112,719
1865	411,388	17,283	3,578	6,596	1,069	53,453	1,123	686	175	2,132	378,254½	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511	146,901	585,525	274,303	101,350 [c] 151,450	213,241
1866	431,412	16,950	3,462	7,361	1,155	59,594	1,255	770	159	2,389	451,225¼	278,437	1,771,809	11,562,155	137,915	774,238	324,049	109,177 [c] 358,652	261,590
1867	447,620	18,317	3,426	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,180	702	188	2,274	413,164	280,201	1,728,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	342,655	119,044 [c] 232,176	264,660
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756¼	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	149,945 [c] 239,516	265,250

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.[d]									Value of total Imports.[d]	Value of total Exports.[d]	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.[e]		Coal.				General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.						
					lbs.	£.	cwt.	£.	£.	ozs.	£.	tons.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1859	1,250	363,121	1,299	387,015	16,988,016	1,458,005	17,376	37,275	532	435,995	1,698,078	173,935	132,984	6,597,053	4,768,049	1,522,668	816,822	1,425,028	433,138
1860	1,424	427,835	1,438	431,484	12,809,362	1,123,699	13,647	28,794	136	483,012	1,876,049	233,877	183,761	7,519,285	5,072,020	1,319,779	560,729	1,321,724	726,231
1861	1,327	366,236	1,391	379,460	12,745,891	1,396,426	60,638	60,816	—	488,293	1,890,908	207,780	160,965	6,391,555	5,594,839	1,448,610	394,457	1,540,005	433,224
1862	1,493	454,837	1,568	467,356	13,482,139	1,283,818	71,281	104,030	—	699,566	2,715,037	308,782	245,422	9,334,645	7,102,562	1,628,885	644,285	1,608,810	526,708
1863	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373	14,791,849	1,262,274	17,709	31,221	—	605,722	2,361,949	298,038	220,181	8,319,576	6,936,839	1,550,047	649,116	2,064,299	537,795
1864	1,849	607,168	1,842	647,057	25,827,917[f]	2,294,615[f]	61,056	100,654	—	758,109	2,952,471	372,466	212,488	10,135,708[f]	9,037,832[f]	[g] 1,693,792	290,983	1,862,245	464,656
1865	1,912	635,888	2,120	690,294	29,858,791[f]	2,283,560[f]	75,810	122,270	—	682,521	2,647,668	382,968	214,158	10,635,507[f]	9,563,818[f]	1,938,656[h]	298,578	1,760,516[h]	554,278
1866	2,099	730,354	2,259	784,381	36,980,685[f]	2,830,348[f]	27,726	51,826	285	751,700	2,924,891	540,905	300,588	9,403,192[f]	9,913,839[f]	2,833,459[h]	419,720	2,125,414[h]	887,157
1867	1,868	646,970	2,104	726,721	21,708,902	1,711,322	37,211	63,648	369	660,619	2,586,044	473,357	253,259	6,599,804	6,880,715	2,034,490[h]	534,966	2,249,521[h]	686,112
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700[h]	1,617,112	2,646,303[h]	640,536

[a] The reduction in the year 1859 was caused by the separation of Queensland from New South Wales.

[b] The Census was taken in 1821, 2, 3, 5, 8, 33, 6.
2nd March, 1841, population 130,856
2nd March, 1846, „ 189,609
1st March, 1851, „ 187,243
1st March, 1856, „ 266,189
7th April, 1861, „ 350,860

[c] Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861." Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre. The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840–2. (20*s.* in Port Phillip, in 1841). 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time. In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars. Transportation ceased in 1840. The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above Expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military. Gold discovered in May, 1851. The Loans Expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

[d] Exclusive of the overland traffic.

[e] Includes the Gold received at the Mint from other Colonies, and converted into bars and coin.

[f] Inclusive of the Overland Traffic.

[g] Includes 270,543*l.* proceeds of Treasury Bills, issued under the Act of Council 27 Vict., No. 8, to cover deficit of 1863 and previous years.

[h] The Revenue and Expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27 Vict., No. 11.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT on the STATISTICAL REGISTER of QUEENSLAND for the YEAR 1868.

To the Hon. ARTHUR HODGSON, Esq., Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Registrar-General's Office, Brisbane, July 5, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for presentation to Parliament, "THE "STATISTICAL REGISTER OF THE COLONY OF QUEENSLAND, for the year ending 31st December, "1868," together with the following comparative tables and explanatory remarks.

Parliamentary Business.

The first session of the third Parliament of Queensland was prorogued on the 4th day of March, by His Excellency the Acting Governor in person, until the 21st day of April. By proclamation dated 14th day of April, the same was further prorogued until the 19th day of May; and, by subsequent proclamation, until the 4th day of August; on which day, the second session of the third Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Acting Governor in person. A vote of "want of confidence" being proposed, and carried, in reply to the speech delivered upon that occasion, an adjournment took place until the 19th day of the same month, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary stating "that His Excellency the Acting Governor had declined to receive advice upon the course "Ministers proposed to take, in consequence of the vote of Thursday last, pending the "arrival of the newly-appointed Governor, who was daily expected." Upon His Excellency's arrival, a further prorogation took place; and on the 26th day of August, the Parliament was dissolved.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

In obedience to the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, dated the 1st day of October, the Members of the new Parliament assembled on the 17th day of November, and, having been sworn in, proceeded to elect a speaker. The late speaker, the Honourable Gilbert Eliott, was re-elected. The House then adjourned until the following day. On the 18th, the new Governor, Colonel Blackall, opened Parliament in person. On the address in reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency being moved, an amendment tantamount to a vote of want of confidence in the Government was proposed, which amendment was negatived by the casting vote of the Speaker, after an animated debate which lasted two nights. An adjournment then took place until the following Tuesday, when the Honourable the Colonial Secretary informed the House that the Ministry had tendered its resignation, which His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to accept. On the 25th, when the House met, it was announced that, owing to the mover of the amendment being unable to form a Ministry, the Honourable Charles Lilley had been called upon to do so, and had succeeded. The House then adjourned until the 29th of December.

Population.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF QUEENSLAND, 31ST DECEMBER, 1868.

Males, 65,843 - Females, 41,584 - Persons, 107,427

Upon comparing this statement with the estimated population on the 31st December, 1867, it will be seen that the addition made to the population during the former year

QUEENSLAND.

amounted to 6,007 males, and 1,571 females; in all, 7,578 persons. The centesimal rate of increase being, males 10·04 per cent.; females, 3·92 per cent.; and in the total population, 7·60 per cent.

In contradiction of an impression which seems to prevail amongst some portion of the community, that a serious decrease has lately taken place in the population, I append a table, showing the centesimal rate of increase which has actually taken place in each year, from 1865 to the end of 1868, from all causes.

A.

TABLE showing the CENTESIMAL RATE of INCREASE in the POPULATION during the last Five Years.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1863 - - -	33·37	32·76	33·13
1864 - -	21·12	18·53	20·11
1865 - - -	17·14	20·93	15·68
1866 - -	7·48	12·79	9·56
1867 - - -	4·41	2·88	3·79
1868 - -	10·04	3·92	7·60

The highest centesimal rate of increase in the population took place in 1863; at which time it reached 33·13 per cent.; from that year to 1867, there was a considerable falling off. It is, however, satisfactory to perceive that during 1868 the centesimal rate of increase had again reached a point approaching to that attained in the year 1866. It is with regret that I observe the centesimal rate of increase amongst the females bears so small a proportion to that which has taken place in the male portion of the population within the last two years.

In order fully to set at rest the erroneous impression respecting the supposed decrease of our population, owing to excess of emigration over immigration, I have prepared a small table, which shows the arrivals and departures by sea during the year 1868. Much of this increase having taken place owing to excess of arrivals over departures from the neighbouring colonies, it may fairly be assumed that the inducements to settle in this Colony are attracting attention.

B.

	Arrivals.			Departures.			Excess of Arrivals.			Excess of Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Great Britain -	338	215	553	151	79	230	187	136	323	—	—	—
Australian Colonies	10,724	1,127	11,851	7,692	1,126	8,818	3,032	1	3,033	—	—	—
Polynesia - -	957	18	975	40	—	40	917	18	935	—	—	—
Other Foreign Countries - -	3	—	3	4	3	7	—	—	—	1	3	4
Totals - -	12,022	1,360	13,382	7,887	1,208	9,095	4,136	155	4,291	1	3	4
Departures - -	7,887	1,208	9,095	Less excess of Departures			1	3	4	—	—	—
Excess of Arrivals	4,135	152	4,287				4,135	152	4,287	—	—	—

The estimated mean population of the year was as under:—

Males, 64,839 - Females, 40,799 - Persons, 103,638

Table C shows the actual increase which took place in the population, from all sources, during each quarter of the year 1868:—

C.

QUEENSLAND.

RETURN showing the INCREASE of the POPULATION of QUEENSLAND, from the 2nd MARCH to 31st DECEMBER, 1868.

	Males.	Females.	Persons.
MONTH OF MARCH.			
Population on the 2nd March, as per Census	60,746	39,155	99,901
Add two and a half per cent. for Non-collection	1,519	978	2,497
	62,265	40,133	102,398
Increase by excess of Births over Deaths, from the 2nd to the 31st March	70	106	176
Increase by excess of Male Immigration over Emigration by Sea, during the same period	1,164	—	1,164
	63,499	40,239	103,738
Decrease by excess of Female Emigration over Immigration	—	4	4
Population on the 31st March	63,499	40,235	103,734
Increase during 29 days	1,234	102	1,336
SECOND QUARTER.			
Population on the 1st April	63,499	40,235	103,734
Increase by excess of Births over Deaths during the quarter	280	402	682
Increase by excess of Immigration over Emigration by Sea, during the quarter	656	3	659
Population on 30th June	64,435	40,640	105,075
Increase during the quarter	936	405	1,341
THIRD QUARTER.			
Population on the 1st July	64,435	40,640	105,075
Increase by excess of Births over Deaths during the quarter	325	442	767
Increase by excess of Immigration over Emigration by Sea during the quarter	2,681	224	2,905
Population on the 30th September	67,441	41,306	108,747
Increase during the quarter	3,006	666	3,672
FOURTH QUARTER.			
Population on the 1st October	67,441	41,306	108,747
Increase by excess of Births over Deaths during the quarter	272	369	641
	67,713	41,675	109,388
Decrease by excess of Emigration over Immigration by Sea, during the quarter	1,870	91	1,961
Population on the 31st December	65,843	41,584	107,427
Increase of Female Population by excess of Births over Emigration by Sea, during the quarter	—	278	278
Decrease of Male Population by excess of Emigration over Immigration by Sea, during the quarter	1,598	—	1,598
Decrease during the quarter	—	—	1,320
Increase from 2nd March to 31st December	3,578	1,451	5,029

The following tables, D, E, F, G, refer to the vital statistics of the Colony, and show a satisfactory result in our social progress during the year. Tables D and E contain the number of births and deaths which took place during 1868. The births, numerically, have decreased 16, compared with the results shown in 1867; and the deaths increased 54 over the number of that year, so that the increase of births over deaths is 2,661 in 1868, against 2,731 in 1867; being a slight falling off in the ratio of increase by births over deaths of 2·56 per cent. on that of the previous year. The largest increase in births during last year occurred in the Maryborough District.

QUEENSLAND.

D.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS in the years 1867 and 1868; also the Proportion of FEMALES TO MALES born in each year.

District.	1867.			1868.			Total Increase* or Decrease† in the latter year.	Increase* or Decrease† per cent. in the latter year.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1867.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1868.
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.				
Banana	5	7	12	15	14	29	* 17	*141·66	140·00	93·33
Bowen	64	55	119	46	40	86	† 33	† 27·73	85·94	86·96
Brisbane	768	707	1,475	658	655	1,313	†162	† 10·98	92·06	99·54
Burke	2	—	2	3	5	8	* 6	*300·00	—	166·66
Cape River	—	—	—	1	5	6	* 6	—	—	500·00
Cardwell	5	7	12	2	4	6	† 6	† 50·00	140·00	200·00
Condamine	13	14	27	8	12	20	† 7	† 26·00	107·69	150·00
Dalby	79	68	147	87	70	157	* 10	* 6·80	86·08	80·46
Drayton and Toowoomba	333	326	659	263	287	550	†109	† 16·54	97·90	109·12
Gayndah	55	50	105	56	39	95	†10	† 9·52	90·90	69·64
Gladstone	36	25	61	30	36	66	* 5	* 8·20	69·44	120·00
Goondiwindi	6	10	16	12	8	20	* 4	* 25·00	166·67	66·66
Ipswich	271	317	588	275	271	546	† 42	† 7·10	116·97	98·54
Leyburn	15	14	29	18	14	32	* 3	* 10·34	93·33	77·77
Mackay	21	17	38	10	23	33	† 5	† 13·16	80·95	23·00
Maryborough	117	103	220	183	168	351	*131	* 59·54	88·03	91·80
Nanango	9	12	21	5	12	17	† 4	† 19·08	133·33	240·00
Nebo	9	4	13	7	6	13	—	—	44·44	85·71
Peak Downs	22	14	36	40	30	70	* 34	* 94·44	63·64	75·00
Princhester	5	—	5	2	4	6	* 1	* 20·00	—	200·00
Rockhampton	251	246	497	272	228	500	* 3	* 0·60	98·01	83·82
Roma	17	19	36	44	47	91	* 55	*152·80	111·76	106·82
Somerset	—	—	—	—	2	2	* 2	—	—	—
Springsure	4	15	19	21	15	36	* 17	* 89·47	395·00	71·43
St. George	9	16	25	13	12	25	—	—	176·78	92·31
St. Lawrence	6	9	15	7	10	17	* 2	* 13·33	150·00	142·85
Surat	7	5	12	6	13	19	* 7	* 58·33	71·43	216·66
Tambo	4	5	9	5	4	9	—	—	125·00	80·00
Taroom	9	7	16	14	14	28	* 12	* 75·00	77·78	100·00
Townsville	9	24	33	25	23	48	* 15	* 45·45	266·67	92·00
Warrego	6	3	9	9	12	21	* 12	*133·33	50·00	133·33
Warwick	106	91	197	122	95	217	* 20	* 1·01	85·85	77·87
Woogaroo	12	11	23	8	15	23	—	—	91·66	187·50
Total	2,275	2,201	4,476	2,267	2,193	4,460	† 16	† 0·36	93·07	96·74

E.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS in the years 1867 and 1868; also the Proportion of DEATHS of FEMALES to every 100 DEATHS of MALES in 1868.

District.	1867.			1868.			Total Increase* or Decrease† in the latter year.	Increase* or Decrease† per cent. in the latter year.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1867.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1868.
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.				
Banana	6	2	8	13	1	14	* 6	*175·00	33·33	7·69
Bowen	27	17	44	50	12	62	* 18	*140·90	62·96	24·00
Brisbane	301	227	528	316	182	498	† 30	† 94·32	75·41	57·60
Burke	21	6	27	22	1	23	† 4	† 85·18	28·57	4·54
Cape River	—	—	—	7	3	10	* 10	—	—	42·85
Cardwell	5	2	7	2	1	3	† 4	† 42·86	40·00	50·00
Condamine	2	3	5	4	2	6	* 1	*120·00	150·00	50·00
Dalby	30	14	44	33	15	48	* 4	*109·09	46·67	45·45
Drayton and Toowoomba	134	93	227	88	95	183	† 44	† 80·61	69·40	107.95
Gayndah	23	7	30	32	13	45	* 15	*150·00	30·43	40·62
Gladstone	11	3	14	10	5	15	* 1	*107·14	27·27	50·00
Goondiwindi	6	3	9	3	2	5	† 4	† 55·55	50·00	66·66
Ipswich	83	71	154	95	71	166	* 12	*107·79	85·54	74·73
Leyburn	4	6	10	2	2	4	† 6	† 40·00	150·00	100·00
Mackay	9	2	11	4	—	4	† 7	† 36·36	22·22	—
Maryborough	34	27	61	115	63	178	*117	*191·80	—	54·80
Nanango	5	1	6	3	2	5	† 1	† 83·33	20·00	66·66
Nebo	11	1	12	5	—	5	† 7	† 41·66	9·09	—
Peak Downs	28	6	34	43	7	50	* 16	* 47·06	21·43	16·30
Princhester	6	1	7	4	—	4	† 3	† 57·14	16·67	—
Rockhampton	182	99	281	131	82	213	† 68	† 75·80	54·40	62·60
Roma	14	7	21	31	16	47	* 26	*223·81	50·00	51·61
Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springsure	23	3	26	20	8	28	* 2	*107·69	13·04	40·00
St. George	3	—	3	10	3	13	* 10	*433·33	—	30·00
St. Lawrence	9	1	10	—	3	3	† 7	† 30·00	11·11	—
Surat	10	4	14	4	2	6	† 8	† 42·85	140·00	50·00
Tambo	6	1	7	9	2	11	* 4	*157·14	16·67	22·22
Taroom	15	3	18	11	1	12	† 6	† 66·66	20·00	90·90
Townsville	13	7	20	31	9	40	* 20	*200·00	153·85	29·03
Warrego	7	4	11	8	2	10	† 1	† 90·90	57·14	25·00
Warwick	52	34	86	44	26	70	† 16	† 81·40	65·38	59·09
Woogaroo	8	2	10	15	3	18	* 8	*180·00	25·00	20·00
Total	1,088	657	1,745	1,165	634	1,799	* 54	* 3·09	60·48	54·42

F.

TABLE comparing the DEATHS of the year 1868 with the BIRTHS of the same Year.

District.	Deaths in 1868.	Births in 1868.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Deaths have Centesimally increased faster* or slower† than Births.
Banana	14	29	15	—	†107·14
Bowen	62	86	24	—	† 38·71
Brisbane	498	1,313	815	—	†163·65
Burke	23	8	—	15	* 65·22
Cape River	10	6	—	4	* 40·00
Cardwell	3	6	3	—	†100·00
Condamine	6	20	14	—	†233·33
Dalby	48	157	109	—	†227·08
Drayton and Toowoomba	183	550	367	—	†200·55
Gayndah	45	95	50	—	† 11·11
Gladstone	15	66	51	—	†340·00
Goondiwindi	5	20	15	—	†300·00
Ipswich	166	546	380	—	†228·92
Leyburn	4	32	28	—	†700·00
Mackay	4	33	29	—	†725·00
Maryborough	178	351	173	—	† 97·20
Nanango	5	17	12	—	†240·00
Nebo	5	13	8	—	†160·00
Peak Downs	50	70	20	—	† 40·00
Princhester	4	6	2	—	† 50·00
Rockhampton	213	500	287	—	†134·74
Roma	47	91	44	—	† 93·62
Somerset	—	2	2	—	—
Springsure	28	36	8	—	† 28·57
St. George	13	25	12	—	† 92·31
St. Lawrence	3	17	14	—	†466·66
Surat	6	19	13	—	†216·66
Tambo	11	9	—	2	* 18·18
Taroom	12	28	16	—	†133·33
Townsville	40	48	8	—	† 20·00
Warrego	10	21	11	—	†110·00
Warwick	70	217	147	—	†210·00
Woogaroo	18	23	5	—	† 27·77
Total	1,799	4,460	2,682	21	†149·08
Less excess Deaths over Births	—	—	21		
Excess of Births over Deaths	—	—	2,661		

QUEENSLAND.

G.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS of CHILDREN, under FIVE YEARS of AGE, REGISTERED in the years 1867 and 1868.

District.	1867.			1868.			Increase* or Decrease† in the Deaths of Children under two years of age.	Increase* or Decrease† in the Deaths of Children two years of age and under five years.	Total Increase* or Decrease† in the Deaths of Children under five years of age.
	Under two years.	Two and under five years.	Total under five years.	Under two years.	Two and under five years.	Total under five years.			
Banana	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bowen	17	5	22	12	4	16	† 5	† 1	† 6
Brisbane	271	45	316	235	35	270	†36	†10	†46
Burke	4	2	6	1	—	1	† 3	† 2	† 5
Cape River	—	—	—	4	1	5	* 4	* 1	* 5
Cardwell	3	1	4	1	—	1	† 2	† 1	† 3
Condamine	4	—	4	1	—	1	† 3	—	† 3
Dalby	22	2	24	23	2	25	* 1	—	* 1
Drayton and Toowoomba	117	27	144	86	35	121	†31	* 8	†23
Gayndah	13	2	15	9	1	10	† 4	† 1	† 5
Gladstone	10	—	10	6	1	7	† 4	* 1	† 3
Goondiwindi	3	—	3	2	—	2	† 1	—	† 1
Ipswich	67	14	81	95	17	112	*28	* 3	*31
Leyburn	6	—	6	—	2	2	† 6	* 2	† 4
Mackay	2	—	2	—	—	—	† 2	—	† 2
Maryborough	31	2	33	83	15	98	*52	*13	*65
Nanango	1	1	2	2	—	2	* 1	† 1	—
Nebo	3	—	3	—	—	—	† 3	—	† 3
Peak Downs	5	2	7	6	7	13	* 1	* 5	* 6
Princhester	1	—	1	—	—	—	† 1	—	† 1
Rockhampton	140	20	160	98	16	114	†42	† 4	†46
Roma	10	—	10	18	3	21	* 8	* 3	*11
Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springsure	5	—	5	4	2	6	† 1	* 2	* 1
St. George	1	1	2	4	1	5	* 3	—	* 3
St. Lawrence	—	—	—	3	—	3	* 3	—	* 3
Surat	4	—	4	2	—	2	† 2	—	† 2
Tambo	3	—	3	—	1	1	† 3	* 1	† 2
Taroom	6	—	6	—	—	—	† 6	—	† 6
Townsville	12	2	14	10	—	10	† 2	† 2	† 4
Warrego	2	2	4	4	—	4	* 2	† 2	—
Warwick	39	13	52	33	6	39	† 6	† 7	†13
Woogaroo	3	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
Total	806	141	947	746	149	895	* 8	†52	†60

Analyzing the deaths of children under five years of age, it is with pleasure I draw attention to the fact that the total number of deaths under the age mentioned is much below that of the year 1867. Deaths of children under two years of age in 1867 numbered 806; above two and under five years, 141; the total number of deaths under five years being 947. During the year 1868, however, only 746 children died under two years; 149 over two and under five; the total number of deaths of children under five being 895. The decrease in this class of deaths during last year was therefore as follows:—Under two years, 60; above two and under five, an increase of 8; leaving a total decrease in deaths under five years of 52. The percentage of deaths under the age last mentioned to the total deaths in 1868 being 49·74 per cent. The respective number of deaths for the years 1867 and 1868 were, in 1867, 1,745; in 1868, 1,799; the increase in the latter year numbering only 54; and the centesimal rate of increase being 3·09 per cent.

The favourable results ascertained with respect to the total deaths amongst the population will be more readily perceived by the table given below, in which is shown the centesimal rate of increase or decrease in the number of deaths registered annually for the last five years.

H.

Year.	Numerical Increase* or Decrease† in Deaths each Year.	Centesimal Rate of Increase* or Decrease† in Deaths each Year.
1864	*171	*13·41
1865	*287	*19·85
1866	*629	*36·29
1867	†617	†26·12
1868	* 54	* 3·09

TABLE showing the NUMBER of MARRIAGES CELEBRATED in each of the Years 1867 and 1868.

District.	Year.	Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Primitive Methodists.	United Methodist Free Church.	Congregational.	Baptist.	Particular Baptist.	Lutheran.	Hebrew Church.	German Independent Church.	Bible Christians.	Registration Act.	Total in 1867.	Total in 1868.
Banana	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bowen	1867	—	6	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	14	—
	1868	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	14
Brisbane	1867	52	72	70	25	13	3	18	9	5	38	—	—	3	21	329	—
	1868	44	63	55	25	7	3	9	10	2	26	3	—	1	18	—	266
Burke	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Cape River	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cardwell	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Condamine	1867	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	1868	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	7
Dalby	1867	5	11	2	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	26	—
	1868	5	7	2	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	28
Drayton and Toowoomba	1867	17	43	16	18	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	118	—
	1868	19	38	11	5	—	—	5	—	—	10	1	7	—	4	—	100
Gayndah	1867	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	15	21	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	8
Gladstone	1867	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	—
	1868	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	13
Goondiwindi	1867	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ipswich	1867	15	40	12	26	5	—	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	9	117	—
	1868	15	32	15	9	2	—	—	—	8	4	—	—	—	3	—	88
Leyburn	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	1868	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Mackay	1867	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	12	—
	1868	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Maryborough	1867	11	11	—	6	—	—	—	11	—	8	—	—	—	2	49	—
	1868	7	22	21	7	—	—	12	20	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	94
Nanango	1867	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Nebo	1867	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Peak Downs	1867	—	2	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	—
	1868	—	1	—	2	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Princhester	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rockhampton	1867	12	39	29	2	22	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	120	—
	1868	6	40	35	3	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	99
Roma	1867	2	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	18	—
	1868	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	20
Somerset	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Springsure	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	13
St. George	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
	1868	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
St. Lawrence	1867	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Surat	1867	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
	1868	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5
Tambo	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—
	1868	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5
Taroom	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Townsville	1867	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	11	—
	1868	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	18
Warrego	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwick	1867	9	23	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	—
	1868	14	16	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	41
Woogaroo	1867	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total in 1867	—	134	261	141	87	40	3	54	23	5	55	—	15	3	114	935	—
Total in 1868	—	135	244	161	53	23	3	53	36	10	43	4	7	1	90	—	863

QUEENSLAND.

Table I. shows the number of marriages registered during the year 1868. It will be seen, upon comparison with that of 1867, that a decrease has taken place; the centesimal rate of decrease being 7·70 per cent.

Education.

At page 130 of the Register will be found a return, showing the number of primary schools under the supervision of the Board of General Education for the year ending 31st December, 1868. The return shows the number of schools to be 73, as against 60, for the previous year; and the average daily attendance of pupils to have been 4,819, as against 4,359; the centesimal rate of increase being 10·55 per cent.

The expenditure for the year for salaries and rent amounted to 10,007*l.* 12*s.*, showing an increase of 673*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* over that of the previous year; a very small increase, when it is borne in mind that there were 13 more schools open in 1868 than in 1867. It afforded me pleasure, when writing my report for the latter year, to observe that parents duly appreciated the energy displayed by the Board of General Education, in constantly opening new schools: and how gladly they availed themselves of the opportunities thus presented of educating their children. The same remarks apply equally well upon this occasion, and possibly with greater force; especially as it must not be forgotten that the year 1868 was one of general depression throughout the Colony.

The return of private schools, published at page 131, shows the number to have been 94 in 1868, as against 88 in 1867; and the number of scholars in the former year to have been 2,877, as against 2,225 in the latter. At one time it seemed as though the primary schools were seriously injuring the private ones; such, however, does not appear to have been the case; for, upon reference to the comparative table annexed, it will be seen that the number of scholars attending private schools during 1868 increased in a greater ratio than those attending the primary ones.

J.

Year.	Primary Schools.												Private Schools.				
	Number of Schools.	Increase in the latter year.	Centesimal Increase in the latter year.	Aggregate Attendance of Scholars.	Increase in the latter year.	Centesimal Increase in the latter year.	Average Daily Attendance.	Increase in the latter year.	Centesimal Increase in the latter year.	Salaries and Rent.	Increase in the latter year.	Centesimal Increase in the latter year.	Number of Schools.	Increase in the latter year.	Number of Scholars.	Increase in the latter year.	Centesimal Increase in the latter year.
										£ s. d.	£ s. d.						
1867	60	—	—	9,138	—	—	4,359	—	—	9,334 9 4	—	—	88	—	2,225	—	—
1868	73	13	21·66	9,751	613	6·28	4,819	460	10·55	10,007 12 0	673 2 8	7·21	94	6	2,877	622	21·62

Crime.

The following tables, lettered respectively K, L, are summaries compiled from returns which will be found at pages 86 and 89 of the Register—1st. Of the number of criminal cases, and their results of acquittal or conviction respectively, tried before the Central Criminal Court, holden at Brisbane and the several Circuit Courts of the Colony; 2nd. A similar summary of criminal cases, tried before the several District Courts of the Colony.

K.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL and CIRCUIT COURTS, 1868.

Offences.	Brisbane.	Ipswich.	Toowoomba.	Maryborough.	Rockhampton.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Total Tried.
Felonies - -	3	5	3	11	5	8	19	27
Misdemeanours	3	—	1	—	—	2	2	4
Total - -	6	5	4	11	5	10	21	31

L.

DISTRICT COURTS, 1868.

Offences.	Metropolitan District.	Northern District.	Western District.	Remanded or Discharged.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Total Tried.
Felonies - - -	22	71	20	46	16	51	113
Misdemeanours - -	15	11	5	11	7	13	31
Total - -	37	82	25	57	23	64	144

These tables compare very favourably with similar ones published in 1867;—in the Central Criminal and Circuit Courts, the number of cases of felony tried being 27, as against 45; and of misdemeanours 4, as against 10 in 1867. The proportion of acquittals in those courts was somewhat different, being, as to felonies, 33 per cent. in 1867, as against 30 per cent. in 1868; whilst the misdemeanours were so few in the aggregate as scarcely to justify comparison. In the District Courts a similar satisfactory result is apparent, the cases of felony in 1868 numbering 113, as against 146 in 1867. The results, however, are very different; for whereas in the latter year the acquittals amounted to 42 per cent. of cases tried, in 1868 they only amounted to 14 per cent.

Table M shows the proportion the commitments as well as convictions bore to the population from 1860 to 1868.

M.

Year.	Population on the 30th June in each year.	Number of Commitments.	Number of Convictions.	Proportion to Population.			
				Commitments.		Convictions.	
				Ratio per 1,000.	Or	Ratio per 1,000.	Or
1860 - - -	26,538	41	30	1·545	1 in 647	1·130	1 in 884
1861 - - - -	31,720	43	24	1·355	1 in 737	0·704	1 in 1,321
1862 - - -	38,198	55	23	1·439	1 in 694	0·602	1 in 1,660
1863 - - - -	51,324	91	56	1·771	1 in 563	1·091	1 in 916
1864 - - -	67,184	94	61	1·399	1 in 714	0·907	1 in 1,184
1865 - - - -	78,753	136	99	1·727	1 in 579	1·257	1 in 794
1866 - - -	94,678	290	178	3·734	1 in 326	1·880	1 in 531
1867 - - - -	96,848	251	114	2·591	1 in 385	1·177	1 in 849
1868 - - -	105,075	175	85	1·665	1 in 600	0·809	1 in 1,236

Table N is a summary compiled from the return which will be found at page 90 of the Register, and contains the results of cases heard before the various Magistrates' Courts throughout the Colony.

N.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS, 1868.

Offences.	No. of Cases Investigated.		Committed for Trial.		Convicted summarily.		Remanded or Discharged.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against Person - - - - - - - -	682	59	62	—	394	37	226	22
Against Property - - - - - - - -	792	39	123	5	305	14	364	20
Against Merchant Seamen's Act - - - -	118	—	—	—	87	—	31	—
Against Master and Servants Act - - - -	615	31	2	—	383	21	230	10
Drunkenness - - - - - - - -	1,567	203	1	1	1,181	142	385	60
Vagrancy - - - - - - - -	391	131	—	—	279	108	112	23
All other Offences - - - - - - -	1,167	115	18	2	857	83	292	30
Total - - - - - - -	5,332	578	206	8	3,486	405	1,640	165

The business transacted at these courts shows an increase during the year 1868, the number of cases disposed of in that year being 5,910, as against 5,240 in 1867.

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The annexed table, O, shows the number of cases heard from the year 1860 to the end of 1868, exclusive of petty debts cases. A great increase has taken place under the heading "All other Offences;" but most of those cases are of a trifling nature, such as breaches of municipal bye-laws, &c., &c.

O.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of CRIMINAL CASES INVESTIGATED and DISPOSED OF in the COURTS of PETTY SESSIONS, from the Year 1860 to 1868.

Year.	Offences against the Person.		Offences against Property.		Offences against the Merchant Seamen's Act.		Offences against the Master and Servants Act.		Drunkenness.		Vagrancy.		All other Offences.		Total Number of Cases Investigated.	
	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Cases.	Convictions.	Remanded or Discharged.	Committed for Trial, or Summarily Convicted.
1860 - -	475	297	219	94	—	—	—	—	715	565	—	—	—	—	453	956
1861 - - -	497	365	361	201	—	—	—	—	1,170	1,032	17	11	—	—	346	1,699
1862 - -	487	326	482	243	—	—	—	—	1,809	1,563	371	274	—	—	659	2,490
1863 - - -	432	268	530	256	—	—	—	—	1,669	1,206	307	210	—	—	867	2,071
1864 - -	789	574	611	248	—	—	—	—	2,104	1,735	374	267	—	—	877	3,001
1865 - - -	379	199	845	334	160	136	91	55	2,646	2,076	463	362	501	334	1,375	3,710
1866 - -	426	238	763	238	209	179	145	101	2,283	1,758	320	255	437	278	1,241	3,342
1867 - - -	693	412	987	358	91	62	649	418	1,674	1,232	506	392	640	420	1,695	3,545
1868 - -	741	431	831	319	118	87	646	404	1,770	1,323	522	387	1,282	940	2,019	3,891

Banks.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

At pages 93, 94, and 95, will be found returns showing the amount of business transacted at the Government Savings Bank during the year 1868. The following table will enable the reader to see at a glance how the business of that valuable institution has increased since its establishment in 1865. The results of the past year must in every way be considered very satisfactory, and certainly tend to show great frugality on the part of the labouring classes.

P.

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing the BUSINESS TRANSACTED in the GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK since its foundation in 1865.

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount to their Credit on 31st December in each year.	Amount of Interest added to Depositors' Accounts.	Total Sum Deposited during each year.	Total Sum Withdrawn during each year.	Average Value of Accounts open on 31st December each year.	Average Value of each Deposit.	Average Value of each Withdrawal.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1865 -	1,803	56,582 2 9	980 9 6	82,065 5 11	26,463 12 8	31 7 7	11 8 7	16 7 10
1866 -	2,485	89,451 18 4	3,533 6 1	136,982 14 11	107,646 5 5	35 19 11	15 0 1	20 4 5
1867 -	3,130	123,158 8 3	4,730 16 9	126,597 12 5	97,621 19 3	39 6 11	15 18 6	19 2 8
1868 -	4,276	220,662 9 9	7,725 5 6	210,148 15 2	120,369 19 2	51 12 1	17 7 4	18 15 5

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

The following table gives the aggregate banking transactions of the several private banks carrying on business in the Colony for each quarter of each year since the 1st January, 1860.

Q.

TABLE comparing the AGGREGATE LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the COLONIAL BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS at the termination of each Quarter of the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868.

		LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.						
Quarters of the Year.	Year.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks and Branches.	Notes and Bills Discounted, and all other Debts due to the Banks.	Total Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Quarter.	1860	32,734 16 6	2,419 7 7	57,161 1 5	166,574 10 6	258,889 16 0	52,677 3 1	Nil.	7,172 5 2	4,804 18 8	1,666 11 5	390,250 8 9	456,071 7 1
	1861	46,975 11 8	2,889 5 2	52 18 1	310,842 6 3	360,760 1 2	66,225 3 4	51 8 6	14,235 17 7	1,290 15 10	5,374 10 8	558,895 5 5	596,073 1 4
	1862	78,110 10 1	5,710 7 5	726 13 2	310,843 1 1	395,390 11 9	86,015 14 5	113 15 3	19,491 5 1	1,860 1 2	5,965 10 8	630,686 12 11	744,132 19 6
	1863	89,165 12 10	9,971 0 0	102,634 19 3	368,348 19 11	570,120 12 0	108,455 19 4	Nil.	27,283 12 4	3,917 3 1	2,226 7 11	789,239 8 3	931,132 10 6
	1864	122,916 3 4	16,126 13 3	180,371 18 10	568,318 9 7	887,733 14 5	160,162 3 4	553 18 1	36,007 8 10	8,579 12 1	7,694 16 1	1,234,653 16 10	1,447,651 15 3
	1865	172,615 16 3	20,320 7 2	19,271 12 10	754,360 7 10	966,567 14 1	177,809 17 6	19,222 2 11	41,671 10 0	15,746 7 6	12,292 18 6	1,630,792 6 0	1,897,535 2 5
	1866	190,165 16 6	17,631 1 2	29,777 3 10	770,102 10 6	1,007,676 12 0	193,173 16 0	6,369 14 6	54,364 12 7	10,991 18 8	24,409 13 9	2,083,256 16 8	2,372,566 12 2
	1867	126,269,16 7	16,762 7 9	19,439 4 9	648,379 11 2	910,851 0 3	222,337 9 10	9,884 5 9	64,316 0 4	8,191 4 8	23,118 10 2	1,759,627 1 9	2,087,474 12 6
	1868	150,234 10 8	22,040 6 10	29,313 2 5	962,554 3 3	1,164,142 3 2	311,740 13 4	14,590 7 10	78,624 5 5	14,470 12 0	17,911 12 10	1,503,721 12 0	1,941,059 3 5
Second Quarter.	1860	35,744 19 11	2,596 7 10	47 17 1	182,435 4 5	220,824 9 3	58,385 2 11	39 11 5	7,946 19 0	1,694 19 11	2,844 16 1	420,138 16 4	491,050 5 8
	1861	52,143 9 2	3,451 3 7	778 10 0	267,351 16 8	323,724 19 5	71,292 1 7	43 12 6	16,363 6 10	1,672 9 8	6,901 19 2	504,818 1 4	611,091 11 1
	1862	80,773 11 5	7,284 14 11	595 11 5	314,769 17 11	403,423 15 8	90,691 5 3	Nil.	21,415 9 10	2,477 7 8	4,149 1 11	652,029 8 4	770,762 13 0
	1863	93,078¡ 5 5	12,983 12 9	1,880 15 7	412,591 16 7	520,534 10 4	114,641 6 6	Nil.	29,197 6 9	4,248 13 11	2,334 8 8	891,873 7 11	1,042,295 3 9
	1864	129,518 19 5	20,398 15 6	16,436 18 0	675,020 15 1	841,375 8 0	206,064 15 1	1,372 14 7	35,820 17 11	7,881 2 7	11,849 3 4	1,286,689 3 2	1,549,677 16 8
	1865	170,209 17 8	23,055 2 1	24,318 4 10	756,613 13 11	971,196 18 9	180,961 17 11	7,561 1 5	44,901 2 9	10,669 5 6	14,910 12 9	1,674,249 3 5	1,933,253 3 9
	1866	181,781 16 4	21,808 16 9	22,955 19 8	776,423 8 2	1,002,970 0 11	197,247 15 7	5,319 5 4	56,835 11 6	11,345 12 9	18,472 3 9	2,213,295 17 11	2,502,516 6 10
	1867	115,338 17 0	14,661 4 1	17,337 7 9	809,338 8 11	957,175 17 9	263,155 2 6	10,172 7 9	65,648 9 8	9,648 4 9	18,341 17 0	1,633,981 19 8	2,000,948 1 6
	1868	160,018 1 5	14,630 15 9	17,901 19 6	924,661 17 7	1,117,212 14 3	324,113 1 10	12,381 19 7	78,543 3 0	15,965 10 3	21,098 13 4	1,456,251 6 10	1,908,353 14 10
Third Quarter.	1860	39,963 3 5	7,920 3 3	18 7 8	236,337 5 0	284,238 19 4	61,289 13 10	86 8 1	11,996 18 3	1,289 11 11	4,730 17 11	472,537 11 4	551,931 1 4
	1861	56,773 6 3	3,617 13 0	5,024 9 1	266,700 10 9	332,115 19 1	78,869 2 2	46 1 4	16,475 6 1	1,548 4 1	4,325 4 6	590,308 7 10	691,572 6 0
	1862	79,599 11 5	18,468 15 7	941 17 11	344,542 14 3	443,552 19 2	96,166 2 4	Nil.	21,709 0 11	2,337 18 6	5,813 6 1	683,862 15 9	809,889 3 7
	1863	98,201 7 10	20,382 3 9	7,007 9 1	435,877 1 2	561,468 1 10	117,332 16 5	8 7 4	32,118 7 4	3,913 12 5	5,425 18 3	998,726 19 5	1,157,526 1 2
	1864	141,629 16 3	28,180 0 7	25,433 4 3	672,435 19 11	867,679 1 0	201,904 19 10	6,256 4 7	36,022 1 8	8,615 15 6	13,592 16 3	1,427,928 7 2	1,694,320 5 0
	1865	174,394 4 10	20,154 15 6	26,996 9 5	780,845 3 6	1,013,390 13 3	196,134 19 1	4,810 6 9	49,159 17 10	8,201 0 8	17,493 0 5	1,858,005 19 10	2,133,805 4 7
	1866	185,496 17 5	28,337 9 5	31,428 6 3	806,743 10 8	1,052,006 3 9	225,575 2 7	5,841 15 5	57,723 15 2	11,921 6 9	17,460 11 9	2,300,963 3 11	2,619,485 15 7
	1867	110,486 14 2	12,081 5 4	22,950 4 11	788,660 8 2	934,178 12 7	301,280 4 2	13,429 0 11	65,585 12 8	9,451 8 2	22,570 4 2	1,581,929 0 8	1,994,240 10 9
	1868	161,898 0 10	14,274 10 5	20,927 13 2	955,849 7 5	1,152,949 11 10	336,516 12 0	11,132 0 11	80,271 1 3	13,096 8 5	26,187 13 11	1,511,341 7 3	1,978,545 3 9
Fourth Quarter.	1860	42,765 11 8	2,473 18 11	17 2 10	286,917 1 4	332,173 14 9	63,843 6 7	43 14 11	13,749 18 8	1,293 14 9	4,870 4 4	490,860 2 5	574,661 1 8
	1861	63,104 12 4	4,499 17 5	323 5 3	322,310 5 5	390,238 0 5	84,916 8 6	40 8 6	18,016 0 7	1,527 7 3	8,101 16 1	618,315 18 1	730,917 19 0
	1862	87,103 4 10	11,903 6 0	2,083 17 4	341,155 8 8	442,245 16 10	105,268 11 6	Nil.	25,538 9 8	2,286 14 1	4,107 1 10	751,678 5 10	888,879 2 11
	1863	107,634 1 10	14,351 5 10	4,189 16 5	472,765 16 0	598,941 0 1	128,632 4 1	1,253 7 6	34,542 6 1	8,649 0 2	6,894 18 1	1,055,989 5 3	1,235,961 1 2
	1864	137,799 3 5	22,398 11 11	11,057 8 4	757,153 19 4	928,409 3 0	178,503 11 0	13,510 0 3	38,874 19 11	17,201 16 11	6,504 0 8	1,571,188 5 9	1,825,782 14 6
	1865	181,615 2 4	25,060 11 3	23,336 9 11	770,912 8 9	1,000,924 10 0	193,017 6 5	5,390 1 9	52,532 5 10	9,118 6 3	18,195 5 0	2,023.207 15 0	2,281,461 0 3
	1866	126,957 6 6	11,871 17 1	16,235 1 4	750,604 14 1	905,668 19 0	218,656 15 1	8,055 9 9	62,091 6 0	7,765 19 11	22,287 14 10	1,906,579 14 2	2,225,436 19 9
	1867	125,272 7 8	12,400 18 5	18,795 16 9	868,316 19 0	1,025,286 1 10	307,907 19 7	12,607 6 9	68,746 1 2	8,345 11 5	17,117 13 1	1,586,033 18 5	2,000,558 10 5
	1868	167,568 0 11	9,797 17 3	18,654 2 2	1,018,566 13 10	1,214,586 14 2	333,062 16 6	19,174 8 4	82,385 16 9	9,859 16 5	22,926 10 8	1,583,817 18 3	2,051,227 6 11

QUEENSLAND.

Live Stock.

RETURN of the LIVE STOCK in the COLONY of QUEENSLAND, on the 31st DECEMBER, 1868.

Horses, 66,878 - Cattle, 968,279 - Sheep, 8,921,784 - Pigs, 26,185.

Comparing this return with that of 1867, it will be seen that a fair increase has taken place in horses, cattle, and pigs: not so, however, with sheep, the increase being only 2·93 per cent. This small increase is, undoubtedly, attributable to the lengthy drought which visited the Colony during the year 1868. Rain having recently been general throughout the Colony, unless any unforeseen misfortune should happen during the remainder of the present year, I feel confident my next report will show a much more satisfactory increase—an increase, however, not likely to be permanent, should the great demand which has lately sprung up in England for preserved Australian meats continue, of which there at present seems little doubt.

Agriculture.

The table published at page 138 of the Register, relative to agriculture, having been prepared in a somewhat different form to that used upon previous occasions, it was found impossible to prepare a comparative table showing the various kinds of crops under cultivation during the years 1867 and 1868; the extent of land occupied by each; and the names of the various police districts in which situated. I regret such a table could not be published, especially as I am fully convinced more information is diffused by such tables than in any other manner. At the next publication of the Register, a comparative table will again appear, containing much more information than previous ones.

Agriculture now beginning to assume some importance, it has been deemed advisable to subdivide many products, and show for what purpose they are actually cultivated. Persons ignorant of farming operations as carried out in this Colony, seeing a return showing the number of acres under crop of wheat, would naturally infer the same was grown for the grain; whereas such is not the case, wheat often being grown for green food. The same remarks apply equally to maize, barley, and oats.

On the 31st of December, 1867, there were 31,559 acres 1 rood and 13 perches of land under crop; and on the 31st of December, 1868, 39,316 acres 2 roods and 16 perches, being an increase in the latter year of 7,757 acres 1 rood and 3 perches, or a centesimal rate of increase of 24·58 per cent. Such an increase must be considered very gratifying, especially when it is borne in mind that in 1868 immigration was quite at a standstill; and, further, that many persons, usually engaged in agricultural pursuits, had temporarily left thair farms for the purpose of trying their fortunes on the Queensland gold fields. Analyzing these returns, it is found that, whereas there were 2,657 acres 1 rood and 20 perches of land under crop with wheat in 1867, there were 3,783 acres 1 rood and 19 perches occupied with the same cereal in 1868: of that quantity 3,425 acres and 19 perches were sown for grain, and 358 acres 1 rood for green food; the increase in the latter year being 1,125 acres 3 roods and 39 perches. Nearly the whole of this increase has taken place in the districts of Drayton and Warwick, both of which are situated on the Darling Downs, where the climate and soil seem admirably adapted for the growth of all descriptions of cereals.

Land under crop with maize shows an increase of 2,065 acres 1 rood and 1 perch, in 1868, over that of the year 1867; the area under crop in the former year being 12,663 acres 3 roods and 10 perches, and in the latter year, 10,598 acres 2 roods and 9 perches. Of the 12,663 acres 3 roods and 10 perches, 12,339 acres and 27 perches were sown for grain, and the remaining 324 acres 2 roods and 3 perches for green food. Most of this increase took place in those parts of the Colony where the heat is considered to be too great for the successful cultivation of wheat. The district of Maryborough shows a greater increase in the production of this grain than any other district, the area of land under that crop being 1,047 acres, as against 391 acres 1 rood in 1867.

Although the whole area under crop with barley was inconsiderable, the increase in 1868 over 1867 was not so, there being in the former year 350 acres 3 roods and 7 perches so cropped, as against 114 acres 1 rood in the latter; showing an increase of 236 acres 2 roods and 7 perches, or 207·02 per cent. The demand for barley has always been very limited; but now that the business of brewing is about to be carried on, probably an increased demand may arise.

A good increase in land cropped with oats is observable, there being in 1868 1,264 acres 1 rood, as against 781 acres 3 roods and 37 perches in 1867; being an increase

of 781 acres 3 roods and 37 perches. This increase appears to have been distributed throughout many districts, the necessity for the growth of oats being general, as most of the hay used in the Colony is either oaten or lucerne. It may, therefore, naturally be inferred that the cultivation of the oat will steadily increase.

Rye, sorghum, and millet remain nearly stationary, the returns showing 100 acres 1 rood and 14 perches as being under crop with the above in 1868, as against 107 acres 3 roods and 7 perches in 1867.

Potatoes show a small increase, there being 2,027 acres and 37 perches under crop in 1868, as against 1,912 acres 3 roods and 13 perches in 1867; the increase being only 114 acres 1 rood and 34 perches.

The cultivation of cotton continues steadily to increase, the returns showing that there were 11,454 acres 1 rood of this product under crop in 1868, as against 8,194 acres and 8 perches in 1867; the increase being 3,305 acres and 32 perches in the former year over the latter. Unfortunately, the past year was, as a rule, a bad one for the cotton-growers, the drought having prevented the seed from springing as early as it ought to have done. Again, in many places the plants were attacked by the bollworm and caterpillar, which did much mischief. Growers, however, are not disheartened,—neither is there any occasion for them to be, when it is borne in mind that in the United States the planters only expect one good crop out of three. Bearing in mind that the cultivation of this plant has been undertaken by those previously unaccustomed to its cultivation, it must be looked upon as a decided success, and an industry, which, in time, is likely to assume immense proportions. A company is now about being formed for the purpose of establishing a cotton-mill at Ipswich, in which district most of the cotton is grown, with every prospect of being a success. Everything is in its favour; the fibre is produced on the spot; coal abounds in the neighbourhood; and all that is requisite for carrying out such a concern is available.

Sugar.—An article, which in all probability will, in the course of a few years, become one of our chief articles of export, is rapidly growing in favour amongst cultivators. The area of land under crop in 1868 being 3,396 acres 2 roods and 36 perches, as against 1,995 acres 1 rood and 23 perches in 1867; the actual increase in the former year being 1,401 acres 1 rood and 13 perches over that of the latter; or a centesimal rate of increase of 70·23 per cent. The quantity of sugar manufactured in 1868 was 619 tons, as against 338 tons in 1867. The quantity of rum manufactured in 1868 was 35,599 proof gallons, as against 13,509 in 1867. It being estimated that 1,540 acres now under crop will be fit for crushing during the present year, I trust it will be my pleasing duty, in my next publication, to show that the time is not far distant when, instead of being importers of sugar, we shall become exporters. As regards rum, such an end should even be attained in the present year.

Arrowroot.—The cultivation of arrowroot appears to be somewhat on the decrease, the returns showing 30 acres and 10 perches under crop in 1868, as against 49 acres 3 roods in 1867. Although this article is vastly superior to that imported, and very much cheaper, the demand is so limited that, at least for some years to come, it is not likely to make any great way.

Tobacco.—Although the area under crop is now only 30 acres and 10 perches, the probabilities are that the cultivation of this plant will ere long attract much more attention than it has hitherto done. That it grows luxuriantly, has been proved beyond a doubt; the only difficulty in the way of its culture being remunerative, up to the present, having been the want of persons conversant with the curing of the leaf after it is gathered.

The cultivation of the vine is on the increase; the area under crop in 1868 being 332 acres 2 roods and 5 perches, as against 194 acres and 25 perches in 1867, an increase of 139 acres 3 roods and 20 perches. Of the total under crop, 88 acres and 24 perches are cultivated for the purpose of wine-making; another industry which is likely to make rapid strides. During the year 1868, 2,155 gallons of wine were manufactured in the district of Brisbane, and 3,631 gallons in the district of Drayton.

Bananas and pine-apples, which were formerly included under the heading "gardens," I caused to be collated under their respective names, especially as they are the only two kinds of fruit exported from the Colony. Of bananas, there were 331 acres and 10 perches in 1868; and in the same year, 135 acres and 8 perches of pine-apples. With the acreage of these fruits deducted, the area of gardens would appear to be less than in 1867, whereas such is not the case; for had these deductions not been made, gardens

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would have been 2,035 acres 2 roods and 9 perches, as against 1,884 acres and 5 perches in 1867.

Trade.

The estimated value of the exports and imports by sea during 1868 was—

	£
Exports	2,107,437
Imports	1,899,119

It will thus be seen that the value of the exports exceeded that of the imports by the sum of 208,318*l.*; a very satisfactory result, when the severe drought of last year, so prejudicial to both the pastoral and agricultural interests, is taken into consideration.

Imports.

Comparing the imports of 1867 with those of 1868, it will be seen that in the latter year they increased in value to the extent of 151,384*l.* The table given below shows the articles of import in which the greatest increase or decrease took place.

R.

TABLE showing the ARTICLES of IMPORT in which the largest INCREASE or DECREASE has taken place in 1868 compared with 1867.

INCREASED IMPORTS.

Name of Article.	1867. £	s.	d.	1868. £	s.	d.	Increased Value in 1868. £	s.	d.	Observations.
Flour	189,530	0	0	261,850	0	0	*72,320	0	0	* Although a much greater sum was sent out of the Colony for the purchase of flour in 1868 than in 1867, the quantity imported in the former year was only 13,019 tons, as against 14,412 tons in the latter, thus showing that the price of flour ruled higher in 1868 than in 1867.
Boots and Shoes	58,277	0	0	79,227	0	0	20,950	0	0	
Machinery	14,510	0	0	35,066	0	0	20,556	0	0	
Beer, in glass	38,472	0	0	55,930	0	0	17,458	0	0	
Iron Wire	7,874	0	0	21,846	0	0	13,972	0	0	
Ironmongery and Hardware	46,994	0	0	59,680	0	0	12,686	0	0	
Rice	9,491	0	0	15,935	0	0	6,444	0	0	
Potatoes, Onions, &c.	13,025	0	0	20,199	0	0	7,174	0	0	
Maize	6,726	0	0	13,071	0	0	6,345	0	0	
Beer, in wood	36,085	0	0	41,261	0	0	5,176	0	0	
Leather, unmanufactured	8,720	0	0	12,512	0	0	3,792	0	0	
Glassware	2,908	0	0	6,685	0	0	3,777	0	0	
Hops	1,219	0	0	3,109	0	0	1,890	0	0	
Machinery for manufacturing Sugar	7,553	0	0	9,268	0	0	1,715	0	0	

DECREASED IMPORTS.

Railway Materials	164,174	0	0	30,604	0	0	133,570	0	0	
Gold, in specie	120,200	0	0	3,410	0	0	116,790	0	0	
Kerosene	18,195	0	0	11,943	0	0	6,252	0	0	
Sugar	108,146	0	0	105,866	0	0	2,280	0	0	
Live Stock, Horses, Cattle, and Sheep	12,012	0	0	8,756	0	0	3,256	0	0	

It is worthy of notice, that while the value of the imports from Great Britain during 1868 was less by 42,825*l.* than in 1867, the contrary was the case with respect to our trade with the neighbouring Colonies, the increase in the imports from those places in 1868 over 1867 being 205,971*l.*

Exports.

The exports in 1868, compared with 1867, show a decrease of 91,172*l.* An examination of the table showing the quantity and value of the exports, page 121 of the Appendix, will satisfy the reader that the articles in which the greatest falling off is apparent are those over which the dry weather of 1868 had a baneful effect. For example, in the year 1867, 435,540 sheep and 26,103 cattle were exported, valued at 220,887*l.*; whereas, in 1868, the number of sheep exported was only 61, and of cattle 424, of the estimated value of 1,980*l.*; this result being mainly attributable to the impossibility of travelling stock during the drought of 1868. A great falling off is also apparent in the quantity of wool exported during 1868, there being 2,647,779 lbs.—of the estimated value of 404,998*l.*—less exported during that year than in that of 1867. An increase, however, is shown in the value of sheepskins exported, to the value of 14,152*l.* This statement shows that, in the value of two of the largest articles of export, there is a falling off to the amount of 623,905*l.*;—notwithstanding which, as stated above, the total falling off in the value of the exports for 1868 was only 91,172*l.* This is a satisfactory proof that in the export of other articles which may be called our new industries, considerable progress has been made. As it may be interesting to know the exact increase which has taken place in the quantity and value of those articles, a small table is appended which shows the results attained in such industries.

S.

TABLE showing the INCREASE which has taken place in the EXPORTS in 1868 over 1867, in Articles the Produce of Industries new to the Colony.

	1867.		1868.		Increase in latter Year.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Gold Dust - -	49,091 ozs. 17 dwts.	189,248 0 0	165,801 ozs.	593,516 0 0	116,709 ozs. 3 dwts.	404,268 0 0
Cotton - - -	412,941 lbs.	26,631 0 0	1,809,628 lbs.	68,929 0 0	1,396,687 lbs.	42,298 0 0
Copper - -	895½ tons.	66,038 0 0	1,088 tons	77,136 0 0	192½ tons	11,098 0 0
Salt Beef and Tongues	1,019 casks	3,402 0 0	1,546 casks	6,541 0 0	527 casks	3,139 0 0
Arrowroot - -	5,332 lbs.	130 0 0	19,098 lbs.	407 0 0	13,766 lbs.	277 0 0
Rum - - - -	—	—	2,072 gals.	380 0 0	2,072 gals.	380 0 0
		285,449 0 0		746,909 0 0		461,460 0 0

The difference in value of the articles mentioned in the table given above, which were exported in the year 1867 and 1868, was no less than 461,460*l.*—a particularly gratifying result, more especially when it is remembered that three or four years since the productions therein enumerated were scarcely mentioned in our list of exports.

Table T shows the total value of the imports and exports of the Colony, from and to each country, from the year 1860 to 1868 inclusive:—

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T.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of QUEENSLAND, from and to each Country, in the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868.

	Year.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.	Increase per cent.* or Decrease per cent.†	
				Imports.	Exports.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
Great Britain	1860	56,730 0 0	—	—	—
	1861	90,905 0 0	119,515 0 0	* 60·24	—
	1862	215,509 0 0	238,553 0 0	*137·07	* 99·60
	1863	365,093 0 0	233,392 0 0	* 69·41	† 21·63
	1864	506,697 0 0	354,636 0 0	* 38·79	* 51·95
	1865	713,545 0 0	240,550 0 0	*40·82	† 32·17
	1866	742,884 0 0	321,939 0 0	* 4·11	* 33·83
	1867	474,483 0 0	505,442 0 0	† 36·13	* 56·99
	1868	431,658 0 0	505,277 0 0	† 9·03	† 0·03
Australian Colonies, and New Zealand	1860	523,165 0 0	161,546 0 0	—	—
	1861	874,797 13 11	589,633 15 0	* 67·91	*264·29
	1862	1,100,935 0 0	550,839 0 0	* 25·85	† 6·58
	1863	1,335,606 0 0	649,299 0 0	* 21·32	* 17·87
	1864	1,746,871 0 0	892,320 0 0	* 30·79	* 37·43
	1865	1,783,737 0 0	912,824 0 0	* 2·11	* 2·29
	1866	1,711,895 0 0	1,027,918 0 0	† 4·03	* 12·61
	1867	1,269,744 0 0	1,688,833 0 0	† 25·83	* 64·30
	1868	1,462,556 0 0	1,601,093 0 0	* 15·11	† 5·19
Germany	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,180 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	4,688 0 0	—	* 29·73	—
	1863	12,539 0 0	—	* 16·53	—
	1864	7,370 0 0	—	† 41·22	—
	1865	8,277 0 0	—	* 12·30	—
	1866	3,921 0 0	—	† 52·63	—
	1867	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	—	—	—
India, China, Ceylon, Batavia, Penang, and Guam	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	450 0 0	—	* 44·69
	1862	3 0 0	1,876 0 0	—	*316·89
	1863	—	4,521 0 0	—	*140·99
	1864	—	94 0 0	—	† 97·92
	1865	—	13 0 0	—	† 86·17
	1866	9,059 0 0	16,396 0 0	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	7 0 0	—	—
South America	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	—	1,968 0 0	—	—
	1863	—	706 0 0	—	† 64·13
	1864	6,880 0 0	4 0 0	—	† 99·43
	1865	—	77 0 0	—	—
	1866	—	88 0 0	—	* 14·29
	1867	—	58 0 0	—	† 34·09
	1868	4,900 0 0	46 0 0	—	† 20·69
New Caledonia	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	2,394 0 0	—	—	—
	1863	—	—	—	—
	1864	36 0 0	—	—	—
	1865	—	—	—	—
	1866	—	150 0 0	—	—
	1867	—	—	—	—
	1868	—	870 0 0	—	—
South Sea Islands and Coral Sea Fishery	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,068 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	—	—	—	—
	1863	25 0 0	463 0 0	—	—
	1864	100 0 0	—	*300·00	—
	1865	—	—	—	—
	1866	148 0 0	—	—	—
	1867	290 0 0	215 0 0	* 95·94	—
	1868	5 0 0	144 0 0	—	† 32·00
Totals	1860	742,023 0 0	523,476 0 0	—	—
	1861	967,950 13 11	709,598 15 0	* 30·45	* 35·56
	1862	1,323,509 0 0	793,236 0 0	* 36·73	* 11·79
	1863	1,713,263 0 0	888,381 0 0	* 29·45	* 11·99
	1864	2,267,954 0 0	1,247,054 0 0	* 32·38	* 40·37
	1865	2,505,559 0 0	1,153,464 0 0	* 10·48	† 7·55
	1866	2,467,907 0 0	1,366,491 0 0	† 1·50	* 18·46
	1867	1,747,737 0 0	2,198,609 0 0	† 29·18	* 60·88
	1868	1,899,119 0 0	2,109,437 0 0	* 8·60	† 4·06

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It will be observed, as stated before, that the direct trade with Great Britain has decreased, both as regards imports and exports—in the former to the extent of 9·03 per cent., and in the latter 0·03 per cent.; while the trade with the Australian Colonies has increased to the extent of 15·11 per cent. in our imports, and decreased to the extent of 5·19 per cent. in our exports. The export cattle trade with New Zealand, which in 1867 amounted in value to 11,221*l.*, appears to have been nearly at a standstill in 1868, the value of cattle in that year exported amounting to only 900*l.*

The following table, U, shows the yearly export of wool from 1860 to 1868 inclusive, and the estimated value of that article shipped from here in each of those years.

U.

YEARLY EXPORT of WOOL.

	To Great Britain.		To New South Wales.		Total.	
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1860	—	—	5,007,167	444,188	5,007,167	444,188
1861	1,415,991	109,425	5,578,042	503,649	6,994,033	613,074
1862	2,522,662	195,506	5,540,950	431,676	8,063,612	627,182
1863	2,502,064	213,688	8,166,980	563,088	10,669,044	776,776
1864	3,932,715	337,818	10,074,074	699,845	14,006,789	1,037,663
1865	2,507,579	197,826	9,744,262	687,473	12,251,841	885,299
1866 Clean	3,169,768	272,754	8,830,457	613,999	14,346,239	987,659
1866 Greasy	259,358	16,462	2,086,656	84,444		
1867 Clean	5,435,161	446,987	10,080,802	722,812	21,554,557	1,462,209
1867 Greasy	512,168	22,461	5,526,426	269,949		
1868 Clean	5,823,583	404,286	9,393,292	529,790	18,906,778	1,057,211
1868 Greasy	—	—	3,689,903	123,135		

Table V shows the growth of our trade in cotton, from the year 1861 to 1868 inclusive.

V.

TABLE showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of the COTTON EXPORTED from the Year 1862 to 1868 inclusive.

Year.	Cotton.			Observations.
	Land under Crop.	Amount Exported.	Estimated Value.	
	Acres.	lbs.	£ s. d.	
1861	*395	—	—	* The amount of cotton exported in 1862 must be taken to be the produce of the 395 acres planted in 1861. So on down the table, the amount exported is, in every case, the result of the crop from the area planted in the previous year. † Heavy floods throughout the cotton districts in this year, at the time the crop was arriving at maturity, rendered it almost a total failure.
1862	392	14,344	1,423 0 0	
1863	†2,021	31,557	3,056 0 0	
1864	479	38,730	4,186 0 0	
1865	477	145,820	12,197 0 0	
1866	2,884	207,272	19,618 0 0	
1867	8,149	412,941	26,631 0 0	
1868	11,454	1,809,687	68,929 0 0	

I cannot close my remarks under this head without alluding to the satisfactory progress which is being made in the export of minerals. To enable a proper estimate

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to be formed of such progress, table W is inserted, showing the quantity and estimated value of minerals exported during each year, from 1860 to 1868 inclusive.

W.

Year.	Gold.				Copper.				Coal.			
	Quantity Exported.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity Exported.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity Exported.	Value.
	oz.	£	oz.	£ s. d.		£	tons.	£	tons.	£	tons.	£
1860	4,127	14,576	No Return.		23 bags	50	No Return.		851	646	12,327	9,244
					tons cwt.							
1861	1,077	3,928	No Return.		18 0	644	49	1,450	1,591	1,870	14,212	9,920
1862	189	625	No Return.		268 0	10,332	No Return.		3,475	3,648	24,067	19,253
1863	3,93	14,792	8,000	30,000 0 0	8 0	296	1,100	30,000	4,228	4,279	2,400	1,500
1864	22,037	83,292	No Return.		1 9	146	2,000	60,000	100	141	25,000	15,000
1865	25,338	92,938	No Return.		221 14	18,440	1,333	40,000	2	3	30,000	18,000
1866	22,916	85,561	21,590	81,111 0 0	441 0	33,918	3,168	95,000	35	32	39,316	21,000
1867	49,091	189,248	48,213	170,090 0 0	896 0	66,038	6,140	84,200	—	—	17,988	9,566
1868†	65,801	593,516	*122,112	429,907 12 10	1,088½ 0	77,136	9,033	73,020	10	15	19,611	11,519

* Quantity sent down by escort. Returns otherwise imperfect.

† NOTE.—Galena, for the first time, appears in the return of exports, ten tons having left the Colony during 1868. 75*l.* worth of Manganese also appears in the same return as a production of this Colony.

Table X shows the value of the imports and exports by sea, from or to each port of the Colony, during the year 1868.

X.

Port.	Imports.			Exports.			Total Trade.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brisbane - -	1,271,536	0	0	925,027	0	0	2,196,563	0	0
Rockhampton -	292,432	0	0	408,411	0	0	700,843	0	0
Maryborough - -	155,332	0	0	524,739	0	0	680,071	0	0
Cleveland Bay -	68,063	0	0	94,698	0	0	162,761	0	0
Port Denison - -	48,691	0	0	48,389	0	0	97,080	0	0
Sweer's Island -	18,494	0	0	20,699	0	0	39,193	0	0
Port Curtis - -	17,243	0	0	27,579	0	0	44,822	0	0
St. Lawrence -	11,857	0	0	11,947	0	0	23,804	0	0
Mackay - - -	11,521	0	0	9,416	0	0	20,937	0	0
Baffle Creek - -	3,950	0	0	36,532	0	0	40,482	0	0
	1,899,119	0	0	2,107,437	0	0	4,006,556	0	0

Revenue.

Y.

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the Year ending 31st December, 1868.

Receipts during the year, including Land Orders received in payment of land purchased from the Crown.				Expenditure during the year, including Land Orders negotiated.			
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
780,117	6	4		797,470	0	7	

The expenditure of the year 1868, charged to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, exceeds the receipts of that year by the sum of 17,352*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

Comparing the above with similar returns of 1867, the following is the result:—

Z.

Year.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			Balance to Credit* or Debit† of Revenue.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1867 - -	669,041	8	3	719,976	11	3	†50,935	3	0
1868 - -	780,117	6	4	797,470	0	7	†17,352	14	3
	111,075	18	1	77,493	9	4	—		

The following table is a comparative statement of revenue received during the years 1867 and 1868.

A 1.

Source of Revenue.	1867.	1868.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	283,366 10 11	337,288 1 4	53,861 10 5	—
Stamp Duty	29,880 11 5	23,703 10 9	—	6,177 0 8
Gold	5,287 8 2	25,588 2 2	20,300 14 0	—
Land Revenue	225,951 14 9	250,002 17 11	24,051 3 2	—
Postage	19,219 10 11	20,739 3 4	1,519 12 5	—
Commission on Post Office Orders	896 17 7	750 1 0	—	146 16 7
Licences	21,543 4 4	25,842 2 6	4,298 18 2	—
Fees of Office	9,893 15 3	7,908 2 10	—	1,985 12 5
Fines and Forfeitures	1,503 3 3	2,334 13 1	831 9 10	—
Rents (exclusive of land)	1,161 0 11	546 3 5	—	614 17 6
Harbour Dues and Fees	4,647 12 8	5,071 7 0	423 14 4	—
Railway Receipts	38,447 5 7	59,022 10 11	20,575 5 4	—
Civil Service Superannuation Fund	2,424 3 2	2,328 2 8	—	96 0 6
Electric Telegraph Receipts	11,119 2 1	11,191 13 6	72 11 5	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	13,699 7 3	7,860 13 11	—	5,838 13 4
Total	669,041 8 3	780,117 6 4	125,934 19 1	14,859 1 0
Deduct Decrease	—	—	14,859 1 0	
Net Increase	—	—	111,075 18 1	

REVENUE DERIVED FROM THE CROWN LANDS OF THE COLONY.

The following return shows the amount realized by the sale, rental, and assessment of Crown Lands, during the year 1868.

A 2.

	Cash.	Land Orders.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land Sales	19,978 11 8	40,075 11 2
Conditional Purchases, under 31 Victoria, No. 46	12,325 11 7	10,368 12 8
Homestead Selections	687 7 8	135 14 6
Rents uner Leasing Act, 1866	9,995 19 6	4,682 16 2
Total	42,987 10 5	55,262 14 6
RENTS AND ASSESSMENTS—		
Rents in Agricultural Reserves	794 16 9	
Rents of Land for Pastoral purposes	121,992 13 3	
All other Rents	1,406 17 6	
Assessment on Runs	15,084 3 10	
Survey of Runs and Selections	12,474 1 8	
Total	151,752 13 0	
Total Land Revenue	194,740 3 5	55,262 14 6

REVENUE DERIVED FROM DUTIES COLLECTED BY THE CUSTOMS.

Table A 3 shows the amount collected by the Customs during each year since the Colony was separated from New South Wales, and the rateable proportion each year's collection bears to the mean population of such year.

A 3.

Year.	Mean Population of the Year.	Customs Receipts.	Average per Head of the mean Population.	REMARKS. Acts of the Queensland Parliament, imposing additional Custom Duties.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860	27,017	59,210 3 7	2 3 $9\frac{3}{4}$	
1861	31,886	71,678 18 11	2 5 7	
1862	40,593	96,107 11 8	2 7 $4\frac{1}{4}$	
1863	53,970	125,199 6 11	2 6 $4\frac{3}{4}$	
1864	67,181	153,341 19 6	2 5 $7\frac{5}{4}$	28 Vic., No. 16: Export Tax on Gold.
1865	80,905	195,540 15 1	2 8 4·06	29 Vic., No. 2: Increased Import Duties on Wines and Spirits.
1866	91,973	223,384 13 11	2 8 6·75	30 Vic., No. 9 and No. 15: *ad valorem* and other import duties.
1867	98,025	283,366 10 11	2 17 $9\frac{3}{4}$	
1868	103,638	333,636 8 8	3 4 $4\frac{1}{2}$	

QUEENSLAND.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the average receipt, per head, of the mean population of the year is considerably greater than that of any previous year. This increase is to be accounted for owing to the extra duties imposed by the *ad valorem* and other Import Duties Acts (30 Victoria, Nos. 9 and 15).

Table A 4 is a comparative table, which will enable the reader to see, at a glance, the amount of Customs Duties levied during the years 1867 and 1868, as also the various amounts upon different articles, together with the increase or decrease upon same.

A 4.

Head of Revenue.	1867.	1868.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Spirits	110,638 7 10	121,816 0 0	11,177 12 2	
Wine	14,169 15 6	17,489 5 7	3,319 10 1	
Ale, Porter, &c.	10,315 2 6	13,191 13 0	2,876 10 6	
Cider and Perry	0 3 0	4 11 0	4 8 0	
Vinegar	589 16 11	923 8 3	333 11 4	
Tobacco	36,076 1 8	42,301 9 0	6,225 7 4	
Opium	3,199 0 0	3,598 10 3	399 10 3	
Tea	24,267 10 9	25,771 16 0	1,504 5 3	
Coffee and Chicory	2,336 5 7	3,081 19 11	745 14 4	
Chocolate and Cocoa	173 12 0	240 0 10	66 8 10	
Sugar and Molasses	17,585 16 11	17,431 17 8	—	153 19 3
Dried Fruits	2,850 18 7	3,374 6 2	523 7 7	
Rice	738 4 10	1,294 4 6	555 19 8	
Salt	5,065 6 4	5,193 19 3	128 12 11	
Ad valorem Duties	55,360 8 6	77,923 7 3	22,562 18 9	
Total	283,366 10 11	333,636 8 8	50,423 17 0	153 19 3
Deduct Decrease	—	—	153 19 3	
Net Increase	—	—	50,269 17 9	

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony amounted, on the 31st December, 1868, to the sum of 3,459,686*l.*, of which sum 3,021,186*l.* was created by loans, and 438,500*l.* under "*The "Treasury Bills Act of* 1866," viz. 30 Victoria, No. 8, and 30 Victoria, No. 10. The interest on the loans amounted to 181,269*l.*, and on the Treasury Bills to the sum of 43,850*l.*; in all, 225,119*l.*

Attached to this report is a table containing a statistical view of the Colony from its foundation to the end of the year 1868*—a table from which the reader can obtain at once instruction respecting the statistics of Queensland, under any head upon which he may desire information, without the necessity of making what might be a laborious research; and is a table especially valuable to those who are interested in the welfare and progress of this country.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FREDK. RAWLINS,
Registrar-General.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

(Not received.)

* This Table is printed separately on the annexed sheet, 88*.

REPORTS EXHIBITING THE PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF QUEENSLAND, SINCE SEPARATION FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

Year.	POPULATION.					MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.						PRODUCTION.																Year.
						Education.		Mechanics' Institutes.		Charitable Institutions.		Crown Lands.				Land under Crop.			Live Stock.				Mills, Manufactories, Works, &c.	Mining.						
																								Gold.		Copper.		Coal.		
	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Population on 31st December.	Schools.	Scholars.	Subscribers.	Volumes in Library.	Number.	Persons Relieved.	Quantity Sold.	Amount Realized.	Number of Squatting Runs.	Area Leased.	Under Cotton.	Under Sugar-cane.	Total Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.		Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	Quantity raised.	Value.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	£	No.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Oz.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	
1860	1,236	278	478	..	28,056	41	1,890	..	..	6	397	23,587	37,978	1,300	41,027,200	14	..	3,333	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	13	..	..	..	..	12,327	9,244	1860
1861	1,423	320	500	..	34,367	43	2,438	536	4,890	6	491	56,849	94,063	1,727	51,811,200	395	..	4,440	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	15	..	..	49	1,450	14,212	9,920	1861
1862	1,702	570	797	9,805	45,077	54	3,060	779	4,232	6	648	67,873	106,019	1,926	57,200,000	392	..	6,067	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	20	..	..	..	..	24,067	19,253	1862
1863	2,221	774	1,275	14,394	61,640	72	5,452	797	5,369	6	1,075	62,948	108,828	2,545	74,286,080	2,021	..	11,262	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	23	8,000	30,000	1,100	30,000	2,400	1,500	1863
1864	2,883	951	1,446	10,959	74,036	89	6,858	753	6,692	7	1,447	139,814	210,725	2,849	84,729,760	479	93	12,006	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066	34	..	..	2,000	60,000	25,000	15,000	1864
1865	3,532	1,074	1,733	11,969	87,804	101	9,091	1,133	6,807	7	1,626	145,799	224,403	3,236	98,634,880	477	449	14,414	51,091	848,346	6,594,966	14,888	44	..	..	1,333	40,000	30,000	18,750	1865
1866	4,127	1,068	2,362	8,396	96,201	129	10,955	1,216	8,916	12	2,546	113,598	141,325	3,470	106,123,520	2,884	607	24,433	52,311	919,414	7,278,778	13,961	79	21,590	81,111	3,168	93,000	39,316	21,049	1866
1867	4,476	935	1,745	917	99,849	148	11,393	1,072	9,068	14	1,763	41,765	49,837	3,619	171,093,920	8,149	1,995	31,559	53,143	940,354	8,665,757	18,142	90	48,213	170,090	5,140	84,200	17,988	9,566	1867
1868	4,460	863	1,799	4,287	107,427	167	12,628	816	10,044	15	1,840	57,070	61,085	3,969	179,696,950	11,453	3,396	39,321	66,878	968,279	8,921,784	26,185	125	122,112	429,907	7,816	73,020	19,611	11,519	1868

INTERCHANGE.

Year.	POSTAL.					SHIPPING.				EXPORTS (SEAWARD) THE PRODUCE OF QUEENSLAND.														IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	RAILWAYS.		ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.		Year.
						Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Gold.		Copper.		Cotton.		Live Stock.		Meat.										
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Money Orders.	Amount.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Fresh and Preserved.	Extract.	Timber (Value).	Coal (Value).	Total Value.	Total Value.	Miles open.	Number of Passengers.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Lbs.	£	Tons.	£	Oz.	£	Cwt.	£	Lbs.	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1860	199,168	149,236	2,956	..	..	210	45,736	183	39,503	5,007,167	444,188	640	25,628	4,127	14,576	..	50	..	..	..	510	5,356	..	2,442	646	742,023	523,477	..	..	..	..	1860
1861	395,861	315,692	3,555	..	..	251	57,377	234	51,827	6,994,033	613,074	1,247	48,009	1,077	3,928	360	644	..	4	3,103	1,845	1,198	..	2,629	1,870	967,951	709,599	..	..	169	5,678	1861
1862	1,027,624	610,320	7,758	574	2,238	330	77,312	305	71,981	8,063,612	627,182	1,503	50,979	189	625	5,360	10,332	14,344	1,423	1,320	1,467	510	..	3,066	3,642	1,323,509	793,236	..	..	169	16,833	1862
1863	898,716	776,198	13,878	3,698	15,094	389	104,421	353	98,844	10,669,044	776,776	883	30,716	3,936	14,802	173	296	31,557	3,056	659	1,469	258	..	5,482	4,279	1,713,263	888,381	..	..	221	19,219	1863
1864	870,807	874,118	11,803	6,598	27,736	431	129,687	396	116,702	14,006,789	1,037,663	1,137	32,999	22,037	83,292	29	146	38,730	4,186	274	1,208	229	..	8,039	141	2,267,954	1,247,054	..	..	298	27,246	1864
1865	1,166,241	779,436	17,160	9,841	41,592	497	173,227	488	167,153	12,251,841	885,299	1,940	57,155	25,338	92,938	4,424	18,440	145,820	12,197	2,175	6,404	765	..	8,383	3	2,505,559	1,153,464	21	17,297	1,131	47,697	1865
1866	1,327,365	802,929	31,764	12,158	51,708	569	197,665	556	195,991	14,346,239	987,659	1,300	53,597	22,916	85,561	8,820	33,918	207,272	19,618	9,139	38,948	14,468	2,800	13,625	32	2,467,907	1,366,491	50	38,569	1,565	64,372	1866
1867	1,897,779	1,413,447	46,686	16,050	74,042	477	149,876	459	145,301	21,554,557	1,462,209	2,733	90,293	49,091	189,248	17,920	66,038	412,941	26,631	461,695	221,533	3,298	23,150	17,802	..	1,747,735	2,198,609	136	18,392	1,752	63,412	1867
1868	2,158,581	1,443,742	52,723	19,310	87,375	511	132,943	478	127,871	18,906,778	1,057,211	3,706	122,544	165,801	593,516	21,769	77,136	1,809,628	68,929	494	2,160	7,903	30,165	16,578	25	1,899,119	2,107,437	160	24,615	1,811	67,111	1868

BRISBANE, the capital of Queensland, is situated in latitude 27° 28′ 3″ south, longitude 153° 6′ 15″ east; height above the sea 70 feet. During the year 1868, rain fell on 110 days; rainfall, 35·98 inches; evaporation, 61·258 inches. The highest reading of the thermometer, in the shade, was in the month of January; the lowest in the month of July; mean temperature of the year, 71·9. The north-east is the prevailing wind.

Year.	ACCUMULATION.								FINANCE.						Year.
	Banks.						Savings Banks.						Land Orders.		
	Note Circulation.	Deposits on 31st Dec.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Advances.	Total Assets.	Number of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st December.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loans Authorized.	Expenditure on Loan Account.	Issued.	Negotiated.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1860	42,765	286,917	332,173	63,843	490,861	574,661	163	7,545	178,589	161,503	..	19,384	..	..	1860
1861	63,104	322,310	390,238	84,916	618,315	730,917	242	12,192	238,238	255,180	123,800	43,826	18,575	13,337	1861
1862	87,103	341,155	442,245	105,268	751,678	888,879	489	20,562	295,286	317,026	..	50,290	90,383	51,144	1862
1863	107,634	472,765	598,941	128,632	1,055,989	1,235,961	655	26,789	295,215	355,791	707,436	48,610	166,471	95,607	1863
1864	137,799	757,153	928,409	178,503	1,571,188	1,825,782	876	30,662	369,425	439,034	1,019,000	401,421	114,718	133,031	1864
1865	181,615	770,912	1,000,924	193,017	2,023,207	2,281,461	1,798	56,516	472,451	459,025	1,170,950	685,246	227,796	192,541	1865
1866	126,957	750,604	905,668	218,656	1,906,579	2,225,436	2,466	86,499	490,269	594,130	300,000	965,346	151,154	151,281	1866
1867	125,272	868,816	1,025,286	307,907	1,586,033	2,000,558	3,130	123,158	610,860	661,795	..	693,428	32,726	58,788	1867
1868	167,568	1,018,566	1,214,586	333,062	1,583,817	2,051,227	4,276	220,662	724,854	742,207	..	207,845	41,086	55,308	1868

SOMERSET, the most northerly settlement of the colony, is situated at the extremity of the York peninsula, in latitude 10° 44′ south, longitude 142° 35′ 48″ east; height above the sea, 70 feet. There are considerable fluctuations in the annual amount of rainfalls—the rainfall for 1865 being 53·06 inches, while the rainfall for 1866 amounted to 103·35 inches. The mean annual temperature is 80·2. The mean diurnal range, 10·5. The south-east wind prevails.

FREDK. RAWLINS,
Registrar-General

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DU CANE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 69.)

MY LORD, Government House, Tasmania, Sept. 6, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of the statistics of Tasmania for the year 1868.

2. These returns have as usual been prepared with much care, and are accompanied with an elaborate introductory report by the Government statistician, Mr. E. C. Nowell.

3. Your Lordship will observe that the population of the Colony was estimated on the 31st of December, 1868, at 100,706, being an increase of 2,251 persons during the year, or at the rate of 2·286 per cent. Of this increase, 1,528 is attributable to the excess of births over deaths, 723 to immigration. The low rate of excess of births over deaths is set down to a larger death-rate than usual during the year, while the larger number of immigrants has been caused by the railway works now in progress on the north side of the island.

4. The imports in 1868 were valued at 845,152*l.*, being a decrease of 11,196*l.* as compared with 1867, and of 96,955*l.* as compared with 1866.

5. The exports, on the other hand, are represented by the sum of 920,820*l.*, being an increase of 130,326*l.* as compared with those of 1867, and of 86,114*l.* as with those of 1866. Two-thirds, however, of this increase is to be found under the item of wool, and is accounted for by one ship having taken two cargoes of wool within the year, one being the clip of 1867, and the other of 1868. I fear, therefore, that this apparently large increase in the value of exports is to be attributed to circumstances of an exceptional character.

6. I am glad to be able to call your Lordship's attention to a great comparative increase during 1868 of the number of vessels employed in the whale fisheries, and in the quantity and value of the oil and whalebone, the produce of the fisheries. The increase in the quantity of oil as compared with 1867 was, black oil 215·36 per cent., sperm oil 173·44 per cent. The excess in the value of the produce was 29,746*l.*, or 130·47 per cent. The revival of this formerly so valuable a branch of industry in this Colony may be regarded, as the statistician rightly remarks, as one of the most encouraging features in the present return.

7. The total general revenue of the Colony in 1868 (excluding balances) was 333,069*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* It exhibits a small excess over the expenditure, and I trust may continue to do so for the future.

8. Your Lordship will observe that the public debt of this Colony on the 31st of December, 1868, was 1,027,400*l.*, including 300,000*l.* to be raised under the auspices of Government for the purpose of the Launceston and Western Railway Company. If this latter sum be deducted, as having been raised for the purposes of a private company, the public debt of the Colony would not amount to more than 727,400*l.*, or 7*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.* per head.

9. The expenditure of the Colonial Government under the head of penal establishments during 1868 was 21,134*l.*, and under that of charitable establishments, 26,461*l.*

10. The returns relating to agriculture show, I regret to say, an universally depressed state of things. The returns of the number of acres of Crown lands either leased or sold during the year 1868, exhibit a considerable decrease, and there is also a decrease in the total number of acres of land under general cultivation. The fluke disease, too, committed great ravages upon the pastoral lands of the Colony during the year, and continues to be generally prevalent up to the present date.

11. The statistics relating to crime continue to show a diminution in the number of serious offences. One criminal was, however, executed during the year, an event which had not occurred in the years 1866, 1867.

12. The death-rate of the Colony for 1868 was 14·61 per thousand, a higher rate than in any year since 1864. The state of the atmosphere during the year appears to have been of a less healthy character than usual, and sufficiently accounts for this increased rate of mortality.

13. The review given by the statistician at the close of his introductory report of the prospects of the Colony is couched in a hopeful tone, which contrasts favourably with

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that of former years, and one which I sincerely trust that its future progress may continue to justify.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES DU CANE.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Legislative Council Office, July 31, 1869.

IN the discharge of my duty as Government statistician of this Colony, I have the honour to forward to you the statistics of Tasmania for the year 1868.

I have taken advantage of the experience afforded by the past year to make some further improvements, which will be pointed out in their proper places.

The difficulty of obtaining returns from some of those persons to whom applications are made still continues; and in many instances there is still a great amount of carelessness, in regard both to the making up and forwarding of the returns, which very seriously adds to the difficulties of my office. I wish, therefore, to impress upon all who are called on to furnish statistical returns, that a few minutes spent in checking them before they are sent in would save me very much time and labour, and not be any hardship—if indeed it were not a positive gain—to themselves. Applications for information, which might have been furnished in a few hours, have in many instances had to be repeated over and over again, and several proof-sheets have been delayed in consequence. If such persons would only reflect how much their negligence or indifference increases the vast labour and anxiety necessarily, under the most favourable circumstances, involved in this work, they would, I trust, be more considerate, and show a more prompt compliance with the requests made to them.

I now proceed to offer such observations as appear to me to be useful, on the facts contained in this volume.

I.—*Population.*

Increase of population:

The population of Tasmania on the 31st December, 1868, is estimated to have been 100,706, being an increase of 2,251 persons during the year, which is at the rate of 2·286 per cent. In 1867, the increase was only 1,087, or 1·116 per cent.; and in 1866, 2,167, or 2·28 per cent.; so that the increase in 1868 was the same as that of 1866, and more than double that of 1867.

By immigration;

The increase by immigration in 1868 was, for the whole Colony, 723; at Launceston (including out-ports) there was an increase of 888; while at Hobart Town there was a decrease of 165. In 1867 the numbers stood: at Hobart Town, increase 160; at Launceston, decrease 626. In 1866 they were: at Hobart Town, increase 347; at Launceston, increase 343.

These results are more clearly shown in the following table, which is carried back five years, and shows the movements of the population at the two ports separately:—

		Arrivals.	Departures.	Resulting Increase (+) or Decrease (−) of Population.
At Hobart Town	1864	1,397	17,35	− 338
	1865	1,364	1,914	− 550
	1866	1,840	1,493	+ 347
	1867	1,648	1,488	+ 160
	1868	1,327	1,492	− 165*
Total, Hobart Town		7,576	8,122	− 546
At Launceston and Sub-ports	1864	2,314	1,786	+ 528
	1865	2,233	1,595	+ 638
	1866	2,929	2,586	+ 343
	1867	1,911	2,537	− 626
	1868	3,716	2,828	+ 888
Total, Launceston and Sub-ports		13,103	11,332	+ 1,771
Total, Tasmania		20,679	19,454	+ 1,225

* From the return of the commanding officer it appears that soldiers and their families, to the number of 244, left the Colony during the year.

The whole number of persons added to the population by means of immigration during the above quinquennial period was only 1,225, or at the average rate of 245 a-year. The increase was much larger at Launceston than at Hobart Town; but this was in a measure caused by the fact that many persons prefer coming from Melbourne to Launceston, and thence proceeding across the island, to braving the additional discomforts attending the longer voyage from Melbourne direct to Hobart Town. But after making all due allowance for this, we can hardly come to any other conclusion than that the comparatively large increase of 888 at Launceston in 1868 was, in a great measure, composed of persons attracted thither by the railway works now in progress. TASMANIA.

The increase of population from excess of births over deaths amounted in 1868 to 1,528, being at the rate of 1·517 per cent. of the population on 31st December. On a comparison with the figures given in page 6 of the report for 1867, it will be seen that so low a rate has not occurred since 1858, the furthest period to which the investigation was there carried. This was due, not to any remarkable diminution in the number of births, but to the unusual mortality, to which more particular reference will be made under the head of "vital statistics." The mean increase from this source for the quinquennial period 1863–67 being 1·688, we observe that there was a declension in 1868 to the extent of 0·171 per cent. By births.

In reference to the constant decrease of the ratio of births to deaths which has now been going on for so many years, it was observed in my last report that, if the same decrease should continue to prevail, in the same degree, in little more than seven years thence all accession to the population from excess of births over deaths would entirely cease, and the population, so far as it is recruited from this source, would then begin to decrease. This statement excited some surprise at the time, and attempts were made to impugn its accuracy, on the assumption that in arriving at my conclusion, I had overlooked the fact that a considerable number of births are every year left unregistered. But a very slight consideration should be sufficient to show that such an objection has no weight whatever. The last census (in 1861) which was taken four years, within a few days, after the one preceding, showed an excess of about 2,100 over the estimated population, or say 525 a-year. Granting then that the major part of this excess was to be put to the account of unregistered births, that does not in any way invalidate my conclusion, for we are entitled to assume that the number of unregistered births does not vary in any considerable degree as between one year and another. The error of defect may thus be regarded as a "constant" (to borrow a mathematical term), and does not in any way interfere with the evolution of the law, as deduced in my former report. An analysis of the returns now before us tends to confirm the result then arrived at.

Fifty-six persons arrived in the Colony in 1868 as bounty immigrants. Of these 44 were from Ireland, 7 from England, and 5 from Scotland. Assisted immigration.

While speaking on the subject of immigration, it may be useful, for the information of persons out of the Colony, who may peruse this report, to give a brief abstract of the provisions of The Immigration Act of 1867, 31 Victoria, No. 26. Those provisions refer to two classes of immigrants. 1. Those who may proceed "direct from Europe to "Tasmania." The conditions prescribed in this case are, that the immigrant shall pay the full cost of the passage of himself and family; that he shall not have previously resided in the Colony; and that he shall be approved by the immigration agent. On satisfying these conditions, he is entitled to receive "a land order warrant, which shall "specify the names and ages, as well of the person to whom it is issued, as also of the "emigrant or respective emigrants on account of the payment of whose passage-money "the same is issued." "Such land order warrant shall entitle the holder thereof to "receive, immediately on his arrival in the Colony, one land order in respect of each "person . . . *whose passage money has been paid in full, . . . *and all such "land orders shall be of the respective nominal values of 18*l.* for each emigrant of the "age of 15 years or upwards, and 9*l.* for each emigrant-child between the ages of "twelve months and fifteen years." These land orders are to be available to their full nominal value, in payment of the purchase-money for any waste lands purchased by the immigrant at any Government sale, or by selection under the Waste Lands Act. * *Sic.*

2. The second class of immigrants referred to in the Immigration Act of 1867, is that of persons "arriving in the Colony with the intention of settling therein, from Europe or "India," as cabin or intermediate passengers. The conditions in this case are, that the passage-money shall be paid by the immigrants themselves; and that they shall not have previously received or accepted land orders within the meaning of the Act. Each immigrant of this class is entitled, at any time within 12 months after arrival in the

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Colony, to certificates from the Board of Immigration, authorizing him to select, respectively, 30 acres of land for himself, and 20 acres for his wife, within 12 months of their arrival; and 10 acres for each child, also within 12 months of its arrival. The selections are to be made within 12 months after the date of the certificates received from the Board, which certificates are to be received in payment of the "purchase-money of any "waste lands selected by virtue of such certificates for purchase under the 19th Section "of the Waste Lands Act, 1863."

A further condition, applying to both these classes of immigrants, is, that they shall not receive a "grant"—that is, a title deed—for their land until they have resided for five years in the Colony, if alive so long. In case of death before that period, the heir-at-law or devisee can claim the grant, as if the condition of residence had been fulfilled. If the immigrant leaves the Colony before the stipulated time, of course the land reverts to the crown.

During the last year, it was proposed to appoint an agent under this Act whose sphere of duty should be in England; but, for reasons which it is not necessary here to specify, the intention was not carried out. Mr. Buck was, however, at the close of the year, appointed an Emigration Agent for Germany, and has departed on his mission. Those who know anything of the German character must augur the best results from Mr. Buck's operations. The German peasantry are remarkable for precisely those qualities which are most deficient in our own Colonists, especially of that class which it is intended to introduce,—namely, steady painstaking perseverance, thrift, attachment to the soil, the habit of making the most of small things, and living on a little. I have myself known many instances where German immigrants have done well in this Colony, and, from very small beginnings, have acquired property, and become naturalized subjects of the British crown; and a large number of other similar instances were discovered by Mr. Buck, who visited many districts in the Colony with that view. There is reason to believe that the example of a fair sprinkling of Germans among our industrial population would have a beneficial effect upon the character of the latter; and their admiration of, and attachment to, those British institutions which have been transplanted in the Colonies, together with the prevalence among them of education and agricultural training, make them especially desirable as immigrants. There is, perhaps, no other country in Europe (save possibly Belgium), in whose people the qualities mentioned are found in an equal degree.

In England, public attention has lately been strongly directed to the subject of relieving the mother country of her surplus population, and various schemes have been suggested for the pupose. There seems every reason, therefore, to believe that before long a stream of immigration will flow thence to the shores of the Australasian Colonies, —Tasmania among the number; and thus we may gain that infusion of new blood which is so vitally necessary in order to repair the mischief caused by continual exhaustion. But there is the danger of being burdened with the pauperism of the parent state to be guarded against. For, though it is true that population is our great need, yet it is equally true that that population, to bring with it any benefit, must be not only a consuming, but a producing population. Of non-producing consumers we have too many already; and all our efforts should be directed to restoring the balance.

II.—*Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.*

Imports and exports.

The imports in 1868 were valued at 845,152*l.*, against 856,348*l.* in 1867, being a decrease of 11,196*l.*

The exports are represented by the sum of 920,820*l.*, being an increase of 130,326*l.* as compared with those of 1867. This is the largest increase between the exports of any two consecutive years in the whole of the period from 1857 to 1868. Of the exports 98·72 per cent. in value was of articles the produce of the Colony; the value of British and foreign produce and manufactures being only 1·28 per cent. of the whole.

The following table shows the distribution of our external trade for the last three years:—

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1666.	1867.	1868.	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	253,180	299,892	265,396	344,131	378,532	435,523
Victoria - - - -	537,878	432,347	458,073	320,626	223,879	277,797
New South Wales - - -	72,844	49,715	46,099	70,690	70,157	111,631
South Australia - - -	—	—	135	17,347	26,260	16,094
Queensland - - - -	3,932	8,875	6,225	17,318	14,076	23,001
New Zealand - - -	1,485	5,058	2,820	57,142	75,057	50,764
Mauritius - - - -	67,278	54,051	59,367	6,667	2,533	5,630
Calcutta - - - -	—	—	455	—	—	—
Guam - - - -	—	—	—	685	—	380
Valparaiso - - -	—	—	2,760	—	—	—
China - - - -	—	6,410	3,602	—	—	—
Southern Whale Fisheries -	5,510	—	220	—	—	—
Total - - -	£942,107	856,348	845,152	834,606	790,494	920,820

Until last year, no distinction was made in the Customs' records between goods imported direct from Victoria and those which were imported from the United Kingdom by way of Victoria. In the early part of 1868, however, instructions were given to the collectors of customs to return each class of goods under its proper head; and it is therefore to be presumed that in 1868 the above figures correctly indicate our commercial relations with those countries.

The commerce at the two ports, in the last three years, stands thus :—

Ports.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1866.	1867.	1868.	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hobart Town - - -	469,255	495,030	439,540	460,735	465,990	418,810
Launceston - - -	412,852	361,318	405,612	373,871	324,504	502,010

It will be seen that while at Hobart Town, in 1868, both the imports and exports were considerably less than in 1866,—the former by 29,715*l.*, the latter by 41,925*l.*,—at Launceston the imports were less by only 7,240*l.*, while the exports were greater by 128,139*l.* As between 1867 and 1868, the exports at Launceston had increased by 177,506*l.*, or 64·57 per cent.; the imports by 44,294*l.*, or 12·25 per cent.

To this remarkable increase in the exports at Launceston the following articles contributed to the extent specified after each :—bran, 2,675*l.*; fruit, green, 4,968*l.*; flour, 26,060*l.*; oats, 42,475*l.*; wheat, 19,235*l.*; sheep (to Victoria), 3,750*l.*; oatmeal, 2,182*l.*; potatoes, 9,269*l.*; wool, 88,254*l.* On the other hand, there was a considerable decrease in timber exported from the northern side.

The following table of imports and exports for the past five years will render it easier to observe the changes in the amounts at the same ports.

Years.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Hobart Town.	Launceston.	Hobart Town.	Launceston.
	£	£	£	£
1864 - - -	549,015	359,250	506,891	468,839
1865 - -	437,480	324,895	462,965	418,000
1866 - - -	469,255	412,852	460,735	373,871
1867 - -	495,030	361,318	465,990	324,504
1868 - - -	439,540	405,612	418,810	502,010

Among the imports at Hobart Town in 1868 will be found 5 packages of coin, valued at 13,500*l.* This is the first time for many years that any record is made of either imports or exports of coin or bullion. The attention of the collectors of customs was called by the Hon. Colonial Treasurer to the omission, and a notice was inserted in the Govern-

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ment Gazette, requesting shippers and consignees to pass entries for all coin and bullion received or despatched, as in the case of any other goods. So long as they neglect, or are not called upon to do so, it is evident that the Customs returns do not furnish a true statement of our commercial relations with other countries. That there must be large transactions in the precious metals will be seen by a glance at the above table of imports and exports. For example: our balance of trade with the Mauritius for the three years showed a sum of 165,866*l.* against us, which must have been remitted in specie or bullion, of which there is no mention. In like manner, the balance between Victoria and Tasmania was against the latter, so that it must have been restored by remittances of specie or bullion to Victoria; while, from the United Kingdom and New South Wales, there must have been an influx of the precious metals hither.

Consumption of spirits, tea, sugar, and tobacco.

Having been requested by the Commission on Distillation to prepare some returns showing the quantity of spirits imported, it may be interesting to glance at some of the results. I have extended the inquiry to some other articles of general use,—namely, tea, sugar, and tobacco,—and give the quantities entered for home consumption in the table which follows.*

Years.	Entered for Home Consumption.			
	Spirits.	Tea.	Sugar.	Tobacco.
	Galls.	Lbs.	Cwt.	Lbs.
1858	126,942	483,275	93,310	200,423
1859	121,332	655,951	55,604	203,647
1860	111,890	818,907	55,598	191,549
1861	105,497	560,495	83,795	180,742
1862	93,536	581,884	93,070	141,287
1863	89,189	688,525	76,796	146,886
1864	81,374	697,108	45,023	155,791
1865	72,380	587,658	49,717	145,338
1866	73,078	496,332	77,380	155,485
1867	69,223	554,657	65,310	151,927
1868	66,517	611,364	67,025	158,257

The result of the enquiry as regards spirits is very remarkable. In 1833 the consumption of spirits was 104,637 gallons; from which time it decreased to 72,091 gallons in 1850. The influence of the gold discoveries raised it to 185,879 gallons in 1854. Since then it has dwindled down year by year with unvarying uniformity, until 1868, when it was no more than 66,517 gallons. The consumption per head of the total population was, in 1838, 2 galls.; in 1851, 1·1 galls.; in 1857, 1·7 galls.; in 1861, 1·2 gall.; and in 1868, only 0·66 gall. The decrease in rum is the most remarkable, 68,502 galls. having been drunk in 1838 with a population of only 45,846, and only 29,086 galls. in 1868, with an estimated population of 100,706!

It is not easy to say, with any certainty, what are the causes of this decrease in the consumption of spirits. Some have supposed that it has been brought about by the substitution of malt liquors of home produce; but here we are met by the significant fact that the number of breweries was returned as 38 in 1858, and only 31 in 1868. The emigration of large numbers of working men, the increase of 2*s.* per gallon in the duty on rum in 1863, and the general decline in the consuming power of the people, must certainly have had a large share in causing the decline.

The consumption of tea, sugar, and tobacco appears to have been so capricious, that it is exceedingly difficult to account for the irregularities exhibited. The increase on these commodities in 1868 was entirely on the northern side of the Island.

The consumption per head of the total population was, in 1861 (the year of the last census), of tea, 6·23 lbs.; of sugar, 144·31 lbs.; of tobacco, 2 lbs. In the last five years (1864–8) the mean consumption was, tea, 6·08 lbs.; sugar, 70·29 lbs.; tobacco, 1.58 lbs. In the previous five years (1859–63) it was, of tea, 7·40 lbs.; of sugar, 91·41 lbs.; of tobacco, 1·93 lbs.

I find that in the United Kingdom, in 1867, the quantities of the above articles per head retained for home consumption was, spirits (imported and excisable) 0·98 galls.; tea, 3·68 lbs.; sugar, 40·58 lbs.; tobacco, 1·35 lb.† The consumption of tea and sugar in Tasmania thus appears to be nearly double that in the United Kingdom; and that of

* This table is not carried further back than 1858, because the information is not to be obtained from the published statistics or Blue Books previously.

† Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom, 1853–67, published by the Board of Trade.

butcher's meat is certainly not less in proportion. I do not think any stronger argument could be found to prove how much better is the condition in this respect, of the people generally in this Colony than in the old countries. TASMANIA.

Two returns have been added in the present volume, showing the quantities and values of articles of home produce exported during the past ten years; and similar returns will be repeated on future occasions. So much having been said about our export trade in my former reports, it will be sufficient now to add a very few words in reference to this subject. We observe an increase in 1868 on the exports of bran and pollard; flour; oats; barley (the quantity being larger than it has been for many years previously); hops, sperm oil, treenails, spokes, &c.; laths and shingles (as compared with 1867 only); sawn and hewn timber; and vegetables. On the other hand, there is a decrease in bark; butter and cheese; fruit; wheat; hides, skins, and leather; horses and sheep; palings; posts and rails, &c.; piles and beams, &c. On wool there is an increase so remarkable as to deserve separate mention. The quantity was greater than in any one of the ten years from 1859 to 1868. Comparing the two last years of that period, the increase amounted to 30·9 per cent. Such a result, in spite of the ravages of fluke, and the dry season in the southern side of the Island, was so contrary to expectation, that I enquired of the collector of customs at Launceston whether there was not some error in the return; but was assured that the quantity stated was correct, the increase being caused by one ship having taken two cargoes of wool within the year, one being the clip of 1867, the other of 1868. Exports of colonial produce.

Before quitting the subject of our exports, I would beg to call the attention of all persons engaged in preparing home produce for market, and especially for sale beyond the Colony, to the injury which our commerce has sustained from carelessness in this particular. Severe strictures were lately made in some of the local papers as to the state in which grain was brought to market by Tasmanian farmers; and I have a very distinct recollection of similar complaints having been made in former years in respect to timber. It cannot be doubted that this cause has had at least some share in the declension of our commerce; and the mischief, once done, is difficult to repair. It is therefore greatly to be desired that our producing classes will take more care in future that their goods may be presented in good marketable condition. Every man who does not do this is not only an enemy to his own interests, but also to his country. It should be remembered, that where the trade is so small as it is in this Colony, any want of confidence produces a much more sensible effect than where the transactions are on a more extensive scale.

The publication of the Board of Trade referred to in the note to the preceding page, affords some useful information with reference to the imports of wool (sheep, lamb, and alpaca) into the United Kingdom between the years 1853 and 1867.

In the latter year the quantities received were—

	lbs.
From Spain	494,049
Germany	3,819,288
Other European Countries	17,172,526
British Possessions in South Africa	36,126,750
Ditto in the East Indies	15,234,620
South America	21,381,281
Other Countries	6,366,494
	100,595,008
Australia	133,108,176
Total Imports	233,703,184
Total Exports (Foreign and Colonial only)	90,832,584
Retained for Home consumption	142,870,600

The supply from Spain seems to be exceedingly irregular, and generally quite insignificant; from Germany it is also irregular, and apparently declining. "Other Countries of Europe" furnish a tolerable steady supply, ranging from 27 millions of pounds in 1853 to 17 millions in 1867; from South Africa it has increased from 7 to 36 millions; from the East Indies it has also increased from 12 to 15 millions, reaching 26 (nearly) in 1866; from South America the supply has been gradually rising from 10

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to 21 millions; from "Other Countries" there is a small increase. The only rivals, therefore, whose competition the Australian Colonies need fear, are South Africa and South America; but even their contributions are small in comparison with Australia, which in another year (supposing the increase to continue) would be able single-handed, to supply the British market with the entire quantity required for home consumption! It is evident that the limit of profitable production has been attained, unless new purchasers can be found.

Customs Union for Australasia.

The subject of Free Trade among the Australasian group of Colonies has, I am happy to say, received a large share of public attention since the publication of last year's Report. The Chambers of Commerce of the different Colonies were invited to meet at a conference in Sydney to consider the proposal to establish an Australasian Zollverein; and three of them, namely, Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia, appointed Representatives for the purpose, the Tasmanian Chamber expressing its approval of the proposition by letter. The Representatives met in Sydney, and passed Resolutions affirming the desirability of carrying ont such a Union; and it is now understood to have been decided that a Conference of Delegates from the Governments of the Colonies represented (including Tasmania) shall be held in October next.

The general feeling of the Colonies seems to be strongly in favour of the proposed Customs Union, and I earnestly hope that no local jealousies, or narrow prejudices, will be permitted to prevent a consummation so devoutly to be wished. In discussing the terms of such a Union, the adherents of free trade and protection will be likely to differ; but it is far better that each should make some concession, than that an arrangement so fraught with important advantages to all should be suffered to fall to the ground for any want of agreement among the Colonies.

There is one point in reference to the scale of duties to be adopted on which I feel some delicacy in touching; but it is so important, that I choose rather to incur the risk of appearing presumptuous, than to pass it over in silence. The failure of the negotiations held in 1863 with the view of establishing, among other things, a simple and uniform tariff for the Colonies represented, was caused by the want of agreement among the Legislatures of those Colonies, whose sanction was required to be given to the Tariff adopted by the delegates before it could have the force of law. There is no reason to suppose that if the same course were again pursued, the result would be in any way different; and thus the Commercial Federation of the Colonies would almost certainly be as far from being established as it was in 1863. It would seem then, that the only course which gives any reasonable promise of effecting that object, is, that the members of the several Legislatures who may be appointed to represent the Colonies should be invested by Act or Resolution of their respective Parliaments with full powers to settle and finally pass into law the proposed uniform tariff; by making the tariff subject to revisal at stated periods, say, every three years, any defects might easily be cured; and means might then be taken for the amendment of anything which might be distasteful to any of the contracting Colonies.

As the subject of a Customs Union is new to most people in these Colonies, and as few will take the trouble to examine it closely, it may be useful to enumerate, as far as we can, the advantages which it is likely to confer, not on any one section, class, or country, but on the whole group of contracting Colonies.

1. Foremost among these we must rank the harmony and unity of action among the Members of the Confederation, which will be a necessary consequence. Isolation, and antagonism of interests are serious drawbacks to the progress of Colonies so nearly related to each other as these. For an illustration of this we need only point to the injury which Tasmania has suffered in her trade from the duty imposed in Victoria on grain, timber, and fruit. A Customs Union would pave the way for federal action on many other subjects, and is therefore desirable, not only for the sake of trade, but also by way of providing machinery which might be made useful for other purposes, in the event of certain possible contingencies arising. The habit being formed of acting in concert on any one subject, it would be easy to extend the principle as occasion might require.

2. The establishment of a uniform tariff throughout the group would act as a strong stimulant to production, by removing restrictions imposed by conflicting Customs duties, and opening up a more extended market to the producer. In the sale of some articles of produce, each Colony is now almost confined to its own geographical limits; whereas a uniform tariff, and a free circulation of goods among all the colonies, would have the

effect of extending, say, our own consumers from 100,000 to 1,700,000. The commerce of the Australasian Colonies in 1867 was as follows:—

Colonies.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Commerce.
	£	£	£
Victoria - - -	11,674,080	12,724,427	24,398,507
New South Wales - -	6,599,804	6,880,715	13,480,519
South Australia - -	2,506,394	3,164,622	5,671,016
Queensland - - -	1,715,582	2,160,340	3,875,922
New Zealand (1866) -	5,894,863	4,520,074	10,414,937
Tasmania - - -	845,152	920,820	1,765,972
Total - -	29,235,875	30,370,998	59,606,873

It cannot be doubted that the throwing open of this trade of 60 millions to the different colonies will have an enormous influence in developing the resources of each, and will open up many new sources of employment for labour. The present restrictions on production being removed, and the number of available consumers being multiplied—as regards this Colony—by 17, many industries may then be profitably established which at present, for want of a more extended market, would not afford an adequate return for the necessary capital; it being a well-established law, that production on a large scale is more economical and profitable than on a small scale. Production being thus stimulated, wealth and what is called the "wage-fund," will be proportionally increased.

3. The rates of Customs duties being assimilated, the prices of commodities and labour will, so far as they are thereby affected, have a tendency to become equalized: and each Colony will thus be left free to produce those things for which it has a special adaptation.

4. As all articles, however frequently they may be transported from Colony to Colony, will be chargeable with the duty only once, their cost will often be diminished, and more money will be available for the purchase of commodities, or the employment of labour.

5. The establishment of one general system of collection of Customs duties will tend to diminish the cost of collection, and remove many sources of irritation and annoyance to the public in their dealings with the Custom Houses.

6. It will also introduce uniformity of system in the Customs accounts of the members of the Union; and this of itself will be a great advantage for statistical and general purposes.

7. The decrease in the cost of commodities, and the encouragement of production, will tend to attract industrial population, and so to supply one of our most urgent wants.

8. The increase in consumption resulting from cheapness of commodities will cause an increase also in the revenue; and this will go far to remove one of the obstacles to the prosecution of necessary public works.

9. The additional employment provided for the population will tend to diminish, or at least to arrest, the progress of pauperism and crime.

10. The last effect which I shall mention is as much of a moral as of a material kind. The proposed Customs union would, more than anything else, tend to remove local jealousies. In this respect Victoria and New South Wales would be the chief gainers; and it is hard to conceive how any objection could ever have been raised in the latter Colony to an arrangement which would completely and for ever compose those disputes which for many years past have proved a constant source of irritation between itself and Victoria. The removal of these disputes would be succeeded by a healthier and more harmonious feeling; and each Colony would have a direct interest in striving to promote the prosperity of the whole group.

Such are some of the benefits which would spring from the operation of an Australasian Zollverein. The objections to it, so far as I have heard, are very few, and are urged in the interest of a few importers and tradesmen only, who do not for a moment deny that the advantage of the general community would be greatly promoted. But when these objections are dispassionately weighed, it will be found that those persons, instead of being injured by a free intercolonial trade, will in reality be as largely benefited as any other class. For, in the first place, the increased consumption will bring them a corresponding increase of business and consequent profit: in the next, the free passage of goods from place to place will enable them either to order supplies only as these are wanted, and so, by keeping lower stocks, to unlock their capital, so that it

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may be turned over much more frequently, thus multiplying many-fold their gains; or to send their surplus stocks to any port where there may be a prospect of making a profitable sale.

It has now, I hope, been shown that a Customs union would confer a boon on the whole population of the contracting Colonies, without exception of any class; and I earnestly trust that the present agitation of the question will result in the early establishment of such a union.

Shipping, inwards and outwards.

The shipping returns for the last three years exhibit the following results :—

		British.		Foreign.		Total.	
		No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
Inwards	1866	640	106,894	3	1,009	643	107,903
	1867	595	96,186	3	1,204	598	97,390
	1868	650	109,120	4	1,433	654	110,553
Outwards	1866	629	105,056	3	1,009	632	106,065
	1867	629	102,141	2	613	631	102,754
	1868	656	110,168	3	1,323	659	111,491

The comparison, it will be seen, is greatly in favour of 1868.

The following were the number and the tonnage of shipping entered inwards at the Northern and Southern Ports, respectively, for the same years :—

	1866.		1867.		1868.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town	227	54,568	222	49,085	223	52,201
Launceston	158	36,368	135	29,945	166	40,386
Ditto Sub-ports; viz.—						
Circular Head	98	7,516	83	7,850	76	5,984
Port Frederick	73	4,813	20	1,629	44	3,085
Leith	40	2,094	77	5,228	82	5,044
Wynyard	44	2,363	61	3,653	63	3,853
Emu Bay	3	181	—	—	—	—
	416	53,335	376	48,305	431	58,352

The shipping at Hobart Town in the last three years has been declining, having been less in 1868 than in 1867 or 1866 : at Launceston, on the contrary, it has increased. As regards the northern sub-ports, it will be observed that at Circular Head and Port Frederick the number and tonnage of shipping has fallen off; while at Leith and Wynyard it has increased.

Shipping registered.

The number of ships (including steamers) registered in 1868 was 187, against 211 in the previous year; the tonnage being, in 1868, 17,477, and in 1867, 19,751. Here, again, the advantage was on the side of Launceston; for, while Launceston gained 2 vessels, Hobart Town lost 26.

Steamers registered.

The number of registered steamers on 31st December, 1868, was 11, the same as in 1867. One, of iron, was struck off the register at Hobart Town; another, of wood, being added at Launceston.

Whale fisheries.

The return of whale fisheries shows an increase in 1868 of 6 vessels employed, with a tonnage of 1568. 150 additional men found employment in this branch of industry in that year. The increase in oil, the produce of the fisheries, as compared with the previous year, was—

Black oil, 22 tuns 187 gallons, or 215·36 per cent.
Sperm oil, 381 tuns 92 gallons, or 173·44 per cent.

The excess in the value of the produce (including 10 cwt. whalebone) was 29,746*l.*, or 130·47 per cent. This is the most encouraging feature in the whole of the returns now under review.

Coal raised.

The quantity of coal raised in 1868 was 9,054 tons, against 8,341 in 1867. The increase took place at Tasman's Peninsula and Seymour, notwithstanding that the mines at the latter place were worked only from March to December.

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Prices of provisions, &c.

The return of prices of provisions and other articles in general use for 1868 has been enlarged by the addition of many other commodities, and the prices, instead of being taken only on the 31st December, have been taken at the end of each quarter, so as to show the limits for the whole year. Instead, however, of striking an average, and so giving rates which would in reality be fictitious, I have preferred to indicate merely the extremes, leaving the reader to strike an average if he chooses. The returns in 1868 and former years being compiled upon different principles, it would obviously be delusive to institute any comparison between them. It may, however, be stated that, as regards the necessaries of life, flour seems to have been dearer, having risen to 18*l.* per ton in March quarter of 1868, the lowest price being 15*l.* in the September quarter. Potatoes were cheaper. Beef in March quarter, 1868, was from 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb., or about the same as in 1867; but in the next quarter, in consequence of the graziers entering into direct competition with the butchers, the price was from 2½*d.* to 5*d.* only, and remained for the rest of the year at from 4*d.* to 6*d.* The competition so established has since been withdrawn. The price of mutton was, of course, similarly effected.

The variations in the contract prices of some of the principal articles were as follows::—Cheaper per cent.: butchers' meat, 26·4; butter, fresh, 14·3, potted, 20; candles, tallow, 15·4; eggs, 11·8; oil, black, 10·9, kerosine, 54·6; sugar, 12·9; tobacco, 7·7:—dearer, per cent.: bread, 40·8; flour, fine, 49·4; potatoes, 7·56; carrots, 33·3.

Trades and manufactories.

The return of trades and manufactories shows a decrease of: baker, 1; blacksmith, 1; bricklayers, 14; cabinet-makers and joiners, 4; candle manufacturers, 3; carpenter, 1; cider-makers, 2; coopers, 5; corn and ship chandlers, 3; engineers, 8; general dealers, 15; gold-beater, 1; grocer, 1; gunsmith, 1; ironmongers, 2; maltster, 1; mill, horse, 1; painters and glaziers, 6; pastrycooks, 7; rope-maker, 1; saw-mills, 3; shoemakers, 35; starch manufactory, 1; stone masons, 10; tanners, 19; tobacconists, 4; turners, 3; watch-makers, 2; wheelwright, 1; woolstapler, 1. There was an increase of: agricultural implement makers, 5; basket-makers, 2; brewery, 1; butchers, 28; chemists, 2; dyer, 1; fellmonger, 1; furriers, 2; glue and size maker, 1; gunsmith, 1; mills, wind, 2; mills, steam, 8; printing office, 1; publicans, 3; tailors, 9; tin-worker, 1; vinegar manufactory, 1.

III.—*Finance.*

General revenue.

The total general revenue in 1868 (excluding balances) was 333,069*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of 60,116*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* on that of the previous year.

The following table shows the receipts of the customs and inland revenues for the past three years:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs (including Bonding Rents, Launceston) -	129,310 12 0	127,223 17 4	132,159 1 2
Inland Revenue - - - - -	47,053 2 0	56,087 8 2	53,164 8 6
Total of both - - - £	176,363 14 0	183,311 5 6	185,323 9 8

The customs receipts (including bonding rents as above) were increased by the sum of 4,935*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, but it will be observed that the inland revenue was 2,922*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* less than in the preceding year.

The following was the expenditure from the general revenue for the last three years:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Ordinary Expenditure for the Year - -	182,363 11 2	163,695 0 3	169,624 8 5
Special Disbursements - - - -	31,592 12 7	50,303 19 9	99,328 16 8
Debentures transferred to Land Fund, &c. - -	—	—	64,274 12 3
	213,956 3 9	213,999 0 0	333,227 17 4
Arrears of former Years - - - -	28,405 3 9	41,553 0 8	42,192 17 2
Total - - - - £	242,361 7 6	255,552 0 8	375,420 14 6

The increase in the ordinary expenditure was due to an excess of 1,085*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* on interest of debentures, and of 5,498*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* on "miscellaneous" charges.

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The large increase under the head of "special disbursements" is accounted for by a transfer in addition to that shown in the next head, of debentures from the general to the land revenue. Excluding the amount of debentures so transferred (118,779*l.*) the total expenditure for the year will be reduced from 333,227*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* to 214,448*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, which includes an excess of 4,400*l.* in the amount of debentures redeemed, as compared with the previous year.

Land Fund.

The receipts of the land fund (excluding balance in hand on 1st January) were 187,878*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* The receipts for the past three years were as follows:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Sale of Crown Lands	53,067 0 11	47,053 14 5	48,444 6 8
Rent of ditto	9,223 4 8	8,200 10 8	7,873 10 11
Fees	2,113 1 1	2,380 2 5	2,390 18 10
Proceeds of Debentures	23,110 0 0	64,568 0 0	127,942 0 0
Other Miscellaneous Receipts	829 5 0	2,742 14 9	1,227 12 9
Total	£88,342 11 8	124,945 2 3	187,878 9 2

The amount realized by the sale of crown land in 1868 was somewhat larger than in 1867, but it will be observed that the revenue derived from the rent of such land was smaller, the ravages of fluke among the sheep having caused many Crown tenants to abandon their holdings. Of the debentures issued, 60,142*l.* were for the construction of various public works sanctioned in previous years, and 61,700*l.* for the exchange or redemption of other debentures, under the provisions of "The Debentures Consolidation Act."

The expenditure from the land fund for the last three years will be seen in the following table:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Ordinary Services	42,139 7 4	42,861 19 7	39,876 1 8
Debentures Redeemed	13,900 0 0	17,380 0 0	16,100 0 0
New Schools, Immigration, &c.	1,108 1 9	6,938 14 8	4,650 9 6
Public Works, Roads, Bridges, &c.	46,474 0 2	35,229 15 4	35,214 6 0
Proceeds of Debentures transferred to General Revenue	—	—	38,600 0 0
Arrears of former Years	3,119 9 7	4,060 17 11	5,190 2 8
Total £	106,740 18 10	106,471 7 6	139,630 19 10

Having myself experienced considerable embarrassment in endeavouring to give a clear abstract of the accounts of the general revenue and land fund, I trust I shall not seem to overstep the proper limits of my duty if I venture to suggest that the consolidation of both funds into one would remove the great difficulty which is now felt in comprehending the accounts; would enable all persons interested in the affairs of this Colony to understand its financial condition more readily and perfectly; and would thus tend to strengthen its credit. The work of consolidation was most happily begun by the passing of the Act, 31 Vict. No. 9; but I would respectfully submit that that work will never be complete, nor productive of more than half its potential effect, until the whole of the public revenues have been thrown into one consolidated fund. The accounts might then be exhibited in so simple a form as to be readily comprehended by all. Thus, not only would they have a great advantage in point of perspicuity, but much labour, both as regards the keeping of, and reference to, the public cash accounts, would be avoided.

Commissariat.

The expenditure from the commissariat chest in 1868 was 63,057*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, being less by 4,177*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* than in 1867. The decrease was principally under the head of "convict" service.

Exchange, interest, &c.

I have added this year a return of the rates of exchange, discount, and interest, for which I am indebted to the courtesy of the Manager of the Union Bank. On London, at 60 days' sight, the purchasing price for merchants' bills ranged from 1 per cent. discount to par; the selling price of bank bills from one-half to one and a-half per cent. premium. On the other Colonies of the group at sight, the purchasing rate varied from one-quarter to one per cent.; the selling rate from one-half to one per cent. premium.

The rates of discount and interest charged by the banks varied, according to the number of days, from 7 to 10 per cent. per annum.

The interest allowed by the banks on fixed deposits for 12 months (which may be taken as the standard) was, in the first quarter, 5 per cent.; in the second, 4; in the third, 3. This fact, together with others that have from time to time appeared, shows that the amount of unemployed capital has been increasing. Such being the case, a favourable opportunity is now presented of establishing new industries, such as the brewing of malt liqours for exportation, the manufacture of woollen cloth, the extension of the whale fisheries, perhaps also the supply of the Melbourne market with fish as an article of food, and the utilization of our woods for ornamental purposes. The operatives discharged from the dockyards in England might possibly be advantageously employed in ship-building here. By means of cheap capital, our extensive coal measures might be made to yield their wealth; and as the progress of railway works in the different Colonies must cause an increasing demand for iron, it might be worth considering whether the manufacture of that metal might not be profitably carried on in this Colony.

Banks.

The following were the average assets and liabilities (excluding minor items) of the banks in the last three years:—

	Assets.		Liabilities.	
	Coin and Bullion.	Debts due to Banks, including Notes, Bills of Exchange, Stock, Funded Debts, &c.	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits.
	£	£	£	£
1866 - -	171,485	1,039,105	83,325	662,420
1867 - - -	151,952	1,039,521	75,367	628,056
1868 - -	171,382	1,065,490	76,490	750,754

The comparison is, on the whole, favourable to the year 1868, particularly as compared with 1867, inasmuch as it shows that our wealth, or rather that proportion of it which is represented by these figures, had increased; but the increase in the amount of deposits without a corresponding increase of paper money, indicates what we have before inferred, that capital could not find ready and profitable investment.

Savings' banks.

The particulars of most interest in the savings' bank returns are compared for the same three years in the following table* :—

	Average Amount to Credit of Depositors.	Average Amount to Credit of Reserve Fund.	Total Amount of Deposits during the Year.	Total Amount of Repayments during the Year.
	£	£	£	£
1866 - -	199,429	21,426	—†	—†
1867 - - -	193,093	22,887	101,646	102,924
1868 - -	194,960	23,152	111,466	105,266

† Return incomplete.

Here again, the comparison between 1867 and 1868 is favourable to the latter, the amount of deposits having increased by about 10,000*l.*, and the excess of deposits over repayments being 6,200*l.*, whereas in the preceding year the repayments exceeded the deposits.

Post Office money orders.

The number of Post Office money orders issued in 1868 was 3,378, the amount of which was 13,070*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; the number paid was 2,512, the amount of which was 10,719*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* In 1867 the number issued was 3,319, the amount being 12,729*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*; the number paid was 2,412, the amount being 10,032*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* One additional office, at Green Ponds, was established on 1st September, 1868.

Gold mining.

The return of gold mining operations in 1868 is very far from satisfactory. It is true the produce of alluvial digging *appears* to have increased from 144·3 ozs. to 245·35 ozs., but as there were on an average 2 men less employed, it may be inferred that the additional quantity is to be accounted for by supposing that a more accurate account has been kept of the gold produced. As regards the quartz mines, the Fingal

* Fractions omitted.

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Company was not at work during any part of the year; and the statement furnished by the Union Company shows a decrease of 4,269 in the number of tons of quartz crushed; of 454·5 ozs. in the quantity of gold produced; and of 1,050*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* in the value. The average yield, as returned by this Company in 1868, had, however, increased to more than double what it was in 1867, being 7 dwts. 3·67 grs. instead of 3 dwts. 6·5 grs. But although one Company had thus stopped working, and the other had contracted its operations, it is not to be inferred that the reefs at Fingal have been exhausted. The fact seems to be that they have not yet been properly explored; and a new reef is understood to have been lately discovered, which is said to present very satisfactory indications.

Public debt.

The public debt of this Colony on 31st December, 1868 (consisting of debentures actually issued) was 1,027,400*l.*, of which 300,000*l.* were for the construction of the Launceston and Western Railway, and though issued under the auspices of the General Government under a re-guarantee as to the payment of interest, were for the pnrposes of a private company. Deducting this 300,000*l.*, therefore, as forming no part of the debt incurred for Government purposes, the actual indebtedness of the public treasury on 31st December last was but 727,400*l.*, or 7*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.* per head.

IV.—*Establishments and Institutions maintained or assisted by Government.*

Post office.

The Post Office return shows that in 1868 there were received; letters, 427,956, or 4,806 more than in 1867; newspapers, 314,373, or 9,991 more than in 1867; despatched, letters, 381,117, or 3,070 more than in 1867; newspapers, 800,615, or 93,214 (being 13·18 per cent.) more than in 1867. The Town and District letters in 1868 were 94,612, an increase of 2,127. The Post Office revenue in 1868 shows a trifling decrease; the expenditure a small increase.

Electric telegraph.

The number of paid messages transmitted by electric telegraph in 1868 was 3,269, against 3,388 in the previous year; the amount received for them, 682*l.* 8*s.*, against 601*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The expenditure on account of this service was 1,679*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, against 1,281*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* in 1867. The number of stations and of persons employed was the same in both years. The Submarine Cable connecting telegraphically Tasmania and Victoria having been successfully laid, and being now in good working order, it may reasonably be expected that the receipts in the present year will be considerably augmented.

Penal and charitable institutions.

Passing over some minor returns, we come to the Institutions maintained, wholly or partially, by the Government. The expenditure on these in the last two years was as follows:—

	Chargeable to			
	Imperial Government.		Colonial Government.	
	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.
Penal.	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Port Arthur (including Pauper Establishment)	12,156 1 11	14,034 1 0	13,568 15 11	12,069 11 0
Gaol for Males, Hobart Town	506 1 7	341 6 8	3,647 19 10	4,157 9 0
Ditto Females, ditto	24 10 7½	—	1,473 10 5½	1,560 6 8
Gaol, &c., Launceston	21 1 10	11 15 1	3,677 1 7	3,346 14 7
	12,707 15 11½	14,387 2 9	22,367 7 9½	21,134 1 3
Charitable.				
Cascade Invalid Depôt	336 19 7¼	354 13 9	2,339 9 6½	3,277 0 3
General Hospital, Hobart Town	412 2 10	347 7 11	4,717 15 4	3,991 0 0
Ditto, Launceston	46 3 4	75 6 1	2,960 10 6	2,493 14 2
Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk	1,668 6 8	1,203 17 11	4,560 2 0	4,814 14 4
Hospital, Campbell Town	—	—	260 12 0	268 17 0
Queen's Asylum	2,046 9 9	1,511 11 4	5,689 17 5	5,607 15 10
Ditto Farm	—	—	—	857 9 10*
Brickfields Pauper Establishment	—	29 5 11	3,264 4 10¾	3,193 7 10
Industrial School for Females	—	—	100 0 0	49 12 6
Benevolent Societies	—	—	1,389 11 0	1,707 17 5
Ragged Schools	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0
	4,510 2 2¼	3,522 2 11	25,482 2 8¼	26,461 8 8
Total of Penal and Charitable Institutions	17,217 18 1¾	17,909 5 8	47,849 10 5¾	47,595 9 11

* Net Cash Expenditure, not deducting Milk supplied to other Government Establishments.

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Volunteers.

The number of Volunteers on the books on 31st December, 1868, was 262, of whom 165 were on the Southern side, and 97 on the Northern. The expenditure for the year was 2,294*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

Aborigines.

The number of Aborigines in the Government establishment was the same as in the preceding year, the expenditure being considerably less. Since last year, the only surviving male of the race has died, so that now only two females are left.

Boards of works.

The return relating to Boards of Works shows an amount of 18,437*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* at the disposal of the Boards during the year; an expenditure of 9,170*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*; and an unexpended balance at the end of the year of 9,267*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

Road trusts.

The mileage of roads under the control of the different trusts in 1868 is stated to have been 2,475¼; the amount of rates, tolls, and certain other receipts, 13,126*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; the aid from Government, 5,867*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, making, with the balance from last year, a total of revenue of 24,170*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* The expenditure was; in salaries to clerks, collectors, and treasurers, 1,036*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*; on roads, 17,077*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.*; other expenses, 2,534*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*; making together, 20,648*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.*

Municipalities.

In the Municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston there appears a decrease of 1,307*l.* on the annual value of rateable property, which in 1868 was 168,844*l.* The receipts were; from rates, 23,498*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; from Government, 1,668*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*; from fees, fines, licences, &c., 2,024*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; from other sources, 9,198*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, making, with balance, a total of 36,990*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* The expenditure was; for municipal salaries, 2,546*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; for police, 3,244*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*; for miscellaneous purposes, 29,819*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*; total, 35,610*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* In the rural municipalities the value of rateable property had increased from 390,956*l.* to 400,532*l.*; the amount of rates from 11,225*l.* (omitting fractions) to 13,711*l.*; while the aid received from Government fell from 9,472*l.* to 3,210*l.* The expenditure differed but little in the two years, that for 1868 being—on municipal salaries, 4,639*l.*; on police, 13,077*l.*; miscellaneous, 5,176*l.*; total, 22,892*l.*

V.—*Crown Lands, Agriculture, &c.*

Crown lands leased.

The acreage of ordinary crown lands leased in 1868 is stated to have been 669,690, yielding a rental of 6,736*l.* 7*s.*, showing a decrease in the acreage of 68,892, or 9·33 per cent., and in the rental of 326*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, or 4·63 per cent. The average rental per 100 acres was thus 1*l.* 0*s.* 1¼*d.* against 19*s.* 1½*d.* in 1867. The acreage of islands under lease was 823,678, being less than in 1867 by 34,803, while the amount of rental was nearly the same.

Crown lands sold.

Of crown lands sold, the number and acreage of country lots in 1867–8 are shown below.

COUNTRY LOTS.

	50 Acres.		50 to 100 Acres.		100 to 500 Acres.		Above 500 Acres.	
	No. of Lots.	No. of Acres.	No. of Lots.	No. of Acres.	No. of Lots.	No. of Acres.	No. of Lots.	No. of Acres.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
1867 - -	169	5271 2 39	75	5385 0 25	36	8036 3 6	13	10,890 1 28
1868 - -	125	4095 1 27	66	4608 0 29	44	9944 0 31	6	4424 0 0

There was a considerable decrease upon all the classes, except that from 100 to 500 acres, upon which there was an increase in the number of lots of about 22 per cent.

A comparison of some other particulars is shown in the following table:—

	Country Lots of all Classes.				Town and Suburban Lots.			
	No.	Acreage.	Purchase Money.	Average Price per Acre.	No.	Acreage.	Purchase Money.	Average Price per Acre.
		A. R. P.	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*		A. R. P.	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1867 - -	293	29,584 0 18	23,457 1 7	0 15 10¼	135	586 3 37·6	2369 12 0	4 0 10¼
1868 - -	241	23,071 3 7	21,930 6 10	0 19 0	61	299 2 7·7	1185 12 0	3 19 3

These figures speak for themselves; but it may be remarked that the decrease upon the number of town lots amounted to 54·8 per cent.

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Agriculture and live stock.

The agricultural and live stock returns, having been delayed beyond their usual time, will be published as an appendix to this volume. In the last session of Parliament the vote for the expenses of collection of the agricultural statistics was increased from 200*l.* to 300*l.*; and it became incumbent on me to devise a system by which those statistics might be made more accurate and trustworthy. The increase was too small to allow of any radical change being made, even if it were desirable, and it was therefore necessary to confine the alterations within certain limits. New forms were carefully elaborated, and issued, with full directions, to the collectors, who were enjoined to use every possible means to ensure accuracy in collecting and compiling the particulars. The plan now adopted is this: there is first a large sheet on which the names of the parties, the acreage, produce, and live stock are entered. The totals of these sheets are then entered in another form, which shows some particulars more conveniently than they could have been arrived at on the first form. This plan, while it ensures greater accuracy, creates a much larger amount of work than the old system. When received at my office, the totals are checked, and if any errors are detected or inferred, they are at once corrected, or referred to the collectors for information, as the case may require. This system, although a great improvement on the former, is still defective in one point,—that of time. The forms were sent out this year in the middle of March, but there has been great delay in returning them, those for Sorell, Glenorchy, and Hamilton having been received only on the 12th, 20th, and 21st instant respectively, and those for Richmond not having been received up to the present time. In order to obviate this difficulty, I proposed, in a memorandum which I had the honour to submit to you, on the 14th June last, to adopt the method now in use in South Australia and Victoria. If this suggestion should be approved, a schedule will be presented by the collectors to every grower of crops or owner of stock to be filled up, as in the taking of a census, and returned. When the schedules are returned with the required information, they will be entered by the collector on the form now in use, and the latter will be dealt with as at present. A limited time, say 14 days, after the 31st March will be allowed for the collection of the schedules, and the compilation of the returns. But in order to carry out such a system, it is absolutely necessary that a sufficient number of sub-collectors should be employed to finish the work within the appointed time; and for this purpose a more liberal vote would be required. After consulting with the Inspector of Police, whose intimate knowledge of the different districts makes him well qualified to offer an opinion, I named in my estimate for 1870 the sum of 800*l.*, which I believe will cover the expense of collecting and compiling the statistics in the districts, and also of the extra clerical assistance which will be required to check and reduce them in my own office. The sum voted for this purpose in South Australia is 1,500*l.*, about 350*l.* of which is required for the office work,—checking the schedules and compiling the returns. The conclusion to which I have been led by the compilation of the present returns is, that under the existing system, while a considerable degree of accuracy may be secured, the work will never be performed with proper despatch; and it will therefore remain for the Legislature to decide whether it will regard the early publication of the agricultural statistics as of sufficient importance to justify the expenditure of such a sum as is necessary to effect it.

The work of the collectors has, as a general rule, been better performed this year than in former years, but in some cases there are still evidences of want of proper care; and in a few districts, in consequence of the forms not having been properly understood, the particulars have had to be taken a second time, which has of course been one cause of delay. Some of the collectors, however, have taken much pains to make their work correct and complete; among whom are those at New Norfolk and Deloraine. Their returns were in the highest degree satisfactory, and reflect great credit upon the compilers.

I requested the collectors to furnish general reports upon the state of Agriculture, &c. in their several districts, and many of them did so. Extracts from these reports are published in the appendix following the ordinary returns.

These reports, together with the returns, show an absence of all improvement among the agriculturists. The hop-growers of New Norfolk are the only exception. They have formed an association for the purpose of collecting and imparting information, from which much benefit must, if the association is energetically supported, result to the promoters and the Colony. I have already advocated the formation of similar combinations among agriculturists generally, and hope that so good an example will be followed by them.

But, beneficial as the establishment of such societies or associations would be, it would not supply the great want—systematic instruction in the principles and practice of

agricultural science. This can only be imparted through the channel of school-teaching, or a regular course of lectures,—the one being for the rising generation, the other for adults. Such a course of instruction, it appears to me, might be made, in country districts, to form a part of our present public school system, without incurring any additional expense beyond that which would be necessary to provide a few requisites, namely, class books, prints of farm implements, &c., such as are published by the Irish National School Commissioners. To make the system complete, where the teacher might be competent to do so, evening lectures on elementary agricultural chemistry, improved methods of cultivation, common errors of bad farming, and other topics connected with the subject, should be delivered for the benefit of those who could not be reached by the ordinary school instruction. The children should be required to devote a part of their time to the actual work of cultivation; and where there is no school reserve available for the purpose, a convenient plot of ground might be rented. In many places land would either be offered rent free, or given, for so useful an object. In this way, not only would the scholars acquire a large amount of practical and scientific information, but they would also learn *to work*, and so would form habits of industry and manual labour. When we consider that no wealth can be produced without labour of that kind, surely the importance of industrial training cannot be overrated. If anything were wanted to add force to such a consideration, it would be found in the troops of children who now infest our streets, in whom idleness and vice are doing their work, and raising up a generation of beggars and criminals who will at no distant date become an intolerable addition to the burdens—heavy enough already—of crime and pauperism bequeathed to us by the policy of the Imperial Government.

It may conduce to a more careful consideration of these suggestions, if we take a survey of what is being done in the way of agricultural instruction in some other countries.

Agricultural education: In Ireland;

In Ireland there were, in 1866, under the control of the Commissioners of National Education, one model farm at Glasnevin, County of Dublin, and 19 School farms, the receipts and expenditure of which are shown below.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Albert Model Farm, Glasnevin - -	1,957	4	3
19 School Farms - - - -	3,347	19	7
Total receipts - - -	£5,305	3	10

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Albert Model Farm - - -	4,634	9	10
19 School Farms - - - -	7,262	11	8
	11,897	1	6
Miscellaneous expenses, agricultural department - - - - -	1,672	8	7
Total expenditure - -	£13,569	10	1
Balance, being net expenditure on agricultural instruction - - - -	£8,264	6	3

The Commissioners report: "The total number of school farms in connection on the 31st December, 1866, was 109,* of which 20 were school farms of the first class, under the exclusive management of our Board, and 18 were school farms of the first class under local management. Of the remaining number, 66 were ordinary school farms, and 5 were school gardens,—one of the latter being under our own management."

In these agricultural schools the inspector has drawn up, and caused to be suspended in each school, "a list of the principal errors of Irish husbandry," the substance of which is either committed to memory by the pupils, or used for the purpose of a dictation exercise. The beneficial effect of thus impressing the essentials of good husbandry on the minds of the students in early life can hardly be overrated.

* The whole expense of which is included in the above statement.

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The inspector of Irish agricultural national schools, concludes his report for 1866 in the following words, which apply quite as strongly to the wants of this Colony as they do to those of Ireland,—perhaps, indeed, more so: "I have no hesitation in saying that, "if correct and rational ideas on the leading principles of husbandry can be impressed "on the minds of the rising generation of farmers, through the teaching and example of "correct practice afforded by the agricultural schools, the latter will return to the coun- "try a thousandfold the amount annually expended on their maintenance. The annual "loss or deficit in agricultural produce, resulting from ignorant and injudicious manage- "ment in a few of the matters to which I have referred, such as the rude and unskilful "modes of sowing and harvesting grain crops, treatment of the hay crop, management "of manure, injudicious treatment of live stock, &c., may be reckoned by millions. The "only sure and certain mode of preventing this loss, and of thereby securing a vast addi- "tion to the products of our national industry, is by widely diffusing industrial intelli- "gence of a character adapted to the capacity and peculiar circumstances and require- "ments of our industrial population. The agricultural industry of this country wants "many improvements to unfetter, properly direct, and fully develop its energies and "resources; but the great and *primary* want is *sound industrial intelligence.* This want it "is the aim and object of the agricultural schools to supply; and if they accomplish "their mission, as they promise to do, in an effective and economical manner, it will "hereafter be admitted, even by those who are now the most sceptical as to their utility, "that they have done vast service to the country, and have deserved well the moderate "amount of support given them by the state."*

In the United States;

In the United States liberal provision has been made for agricultural instruction. The following account of it is extracted from the evidence given by the Rev. H. S. Earl before a Select Committee of the House of Assembly of South Australia, in 1868:—"In 1862 "there was passed an Act in Congress granting 30,000 acres of land in scrip for each "senator and representative of each state, for the establishment of an agricultural and "mechanical college. The tuition is free in this college, and, of course, the things "taught there have a particular bearing upon mechanical and agricultural matters. "The object is to give students all the information that can be given in these depart- "ments; and, in connection therewith, the students have an opportunity of labouring "a certain number of hours each day to enable them to pay their board. In this way "by labouring and by obtaining a certain number of hours' study, they get a first-class "education. In Kentucky this has been put into successful operation. It is placed in "connection with the Kentucky University—made one of the colleges of that University; "and the state having eleven senators and representatives, it has scrip for 330,000 acres "of land. The scrip is sold, the money invested, and the proceeds applied for the main- "tenance of the college; and in that way, through the grant from Congress, it educates "300 students." Each state has "its own agricultural and mechanical college. They "avail themselves of the offer with certain restrictions. The state has to furnish a certain "amount itself besides. One hundred thousand dollars, I believe, were required from "the Kentucky legislature, and they just handed that responsibility over to the Kentucky "University, which guaranteed the amount. It is just the same thing—it does not cost "the state anything at all."

In Upper Canada;

In Upper Canada there is a minister of agriculture and statistics, and a board of agriculture. The report of the board for the year 1866 furnishes the following information:—The amount of prizes offered by the board at the Provincial Exhibition of 1866 was 12,712 dollars; the amount awarded 10,288½ dollars; and the number of entries, 6,279. There were 264 township or branch agricultural societies, which had "received, in sub- "scriptions from their members, up to the time of applying for the public grant, the "sum of 39,254·30 dollars, and from the public funds the net sum of 44,630·76 dollars, "all to be applied to the purposes for which they are established by statute." Agricultural instruction is provided by the board; and its effects are thus referred to:—"Pro- "fessor Buckland has, during the past year, in a number of successive towns, visited and "lectured at public meetings in the following counties; viz.—Essex, Kent, Lambton, "Perth, Huron, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant, Halton, Peel, Simcoe, York, Ontario, Dur- "ham, Northumberland, Renfrew, Carleton, Russell, Lennox, and Addington. In this "useful labour he has occupied twenty-three weeks' time, and has held eighty-three "meetings, at which the attendance has been from forty or fifty to one hundred and "fifty or two hundred persons each meeting. He has besides, had much personal inter-

* Report of Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for 1866. Among other school books named in the report are the following:—Agricultural Class Book; Dr. Hodge's First Steps in Agricultural Chemistry, and First Lessons in ditto; Johnston's Catechism; Murphy's Agricultural Instructor, &c.

" course with farmers in the above counties, and a few others where meetings were not " convened. He has found, and has endeavoured to encourage, an active desire to acquire " a knowledge of the most improved system for developing the resources of the land, and " has also endeavoured to promote a spirit of intercourse and mutual co-operation and " inquiry amongst the farmers in the more remote districts. Amongst other subjects, " he has specially brought to the attention of his auditors the importance of the improve- " ment of stock by using pure-bred male animals; the better and more thorough culti- " vation of land, by applying the labour to a less surface, and leaving a larger amount " in pasturage; the advantages and means of pursuing dairy husbandry, flax cultivation, " &c., &c. His lectures have been looked forward to by the members of agricultural " societies and others with much interest, as a means of acquiring valuable information, " and have been, as a general rule, well attended. TASMANIA.

" The veterinary school continues in successful operation, in connection with the " course of agricultural lectures given by Professor Buckland, assisted by other professors " of the University, to occasional students, each winter. At the recent session there were " in attendance seventeen students, of whom thirteen were studying veterinary science " with the view of practising it as a profession."

" Prussia maintains four Royal Academies of Agriculture, at which both the theory and the practice of farming are taught in a course lasting two years, and costing each student less than 8*l.* a-year for instruction in political and rural economy, based on statistics in farming, and the management of trees and woods; in the mode of manufacturing sugar, beer, bricks, and draining-tiles; in mineralogy, geology, botany, and chemistry, &c. For the amateurs a less practical instruction is provided at institutes attached to the Universities of Halle and Berlin. Below the academies are nineteen provincial schools of agriculture, subsidized by the state to the aggregate amount of about 2,000*l.*, and for the most part kept by some large farmer, assisted by the neighbouring apothecary, schoolmaster, and veterinary surgeon. There are further in Prussia numerous special 'schools' for particular branches, such as market-gardening, and the cultivation of meadows and woods; and the care of fruit-trees is taught in 134 schools in the ancient provinces alone. The system of paid instruction is completed by the curious institution of wandering teachers, who circulate from village to village, criticising the cultivation, and giving advice about rotations of crops and the most suitable kinds of manure. But this is not all. The state maintains seven experimental institutes of organic and agricultural chemistry, which on different soils and under different circumstances are engaged in verifying and completing the theories of Liebig, and in testing the purity of the artificial manures of commerce. Last come no less than 519 voluntary agricultural associations, which by conferences, exhibitions, and prizes assist in spreading information. Apart from the academies and institutes of chemistry little is done by the state either to excite or direct private action. There is a central commission presided over by a minister of agriculture, but its expenses in 1862 amounted to no more than 177*l.*"* In Prussia;

In Austria, " throughout the empire special institutions exist for agricultural education, " carefully adapted to the several grades of students, and also to the different branches " of rural economy. These are supported chiefly by liberal subsidies from the State—by " the provinces or districts in which they are located—and (to a small extent) by private " means." These institutions are ranged under the following classes:—1. Higher agricultural institutions, of which there seem to be 10. 2. Farm schools, of which there are 14. 3. Higher forest schools, 5 in number; with other schools for special subjects. Regular courses of agricultural lectures are given in the universities of Vienna and in 14 other institutions. By these means about 300 teachers are enabled to give instruction to some 2,500 students. The subsidies from the State vary in amount from 1,000 to 10,000 florins per annum. The students' expenses are kept as low as possible. In the higher schools the students are not found board and lodging; but in the lower schools these are provided, and at a very economical rate. Of agricultural societies and unions there are about 119, with about 80,000 regular members. "Of "these, 52 are specially devoted to husbandry, 10 to forestry, 21 to garden, fruit, and "vine cultivation, 10 to horse and cattle breeding and management, 15 to silkworm "breeding and management, 6 to bees, and 5 to fish cultivation." The head and centre of all the agricultural societies is the Imperial Society, which grants assistance to the local societies. There are 50 regular agricultural periodicals published, either monthly or weekly.† In Austria;

* 'Pall Mall Gazette,' quoted in Journal of Statistical Society, Dec., 1867.

† Professor Wilson's Report on Agricultural Exhibitions at Vienna in 1866.

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In Victoria. The Colony of Victoria has sought to promote the interests of agriculture by an annual grant of 6,000*l.*, which is expended by the Board of Agriculture; and there is also a model farm.

Many other examples might be added to the above, did time and space permit; but enough has been said to show that it is the interest of every State, by some means or other, to seek to educate its people in the principles and practice of scientific and economic agriculture. The two chief ends to be attained by such an education, are, 1. to diminish the cost, and to increase the profit of production; 2. to preserve unimpaired, or even to enhance, the fertility of the soil. Surely in these things, more than in any others, is to be found the germ of national prosperity.

VI.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

Committals. The number of committals for trial in 1868 is stated to have been 178 (or, as it is given in another return, p. 139, 168), being 49 less than in 1867. The decrease is believed to have been caused by a change in the mode of dealing with such cases.

Persons tried in higher Courts. The number of persons tried before the Supreme Court was 87, against 127 in the previous year, being 40 less. In the Recorder's Court there was an increase of 5. In both cases, the proportion of offences against the person had considerably increased.

Executions. One criminal was executed during the year. There were no executions in 1867 or 1866.

Litigation. In the Supreme Court, in its ordinary jurisdiction, the number of writs issued was 349, being 89 less than in 1867; the number of civil cases tried, 15, or 2 less. Under "The "Small Debts Act" the business of the court had also considerably diminished.

In courts of request, under the same act, the amount of litigation had somewhat increased, the increase being entirely in the 10*l.* cases.

Magisterial cases. The return of persons dealt with by magistrates in 1868 shows the following results:—apprehensions 4,440, or 235 less; appeared on summons, 3,034, or 313 more; cases not proceeded with, 712, or 19 less; discharged, 1,071, or 45 more; convicted, 5,125, or 103 more; orders for payment of money under "The Magistrates' Summary "Procedure Act," 1,423, or 347 more.

Probates, &c. The number of probates of wills granted in 1868 was 67, against 53 in 1867; the amount of sworn property 173,606*l.*, against 118,335*l.* Much of this increase was probably caused by the substitution of a probate for a succession duty, the latter duty having in many cases not been paid as it fell due. Letters of administration to the number of 19 were issued, against 21 in 1867, the amounts represented being 20,250*l.*, and 24,087*l.* respectively.

Insolvencies. The total number of insolvencies in 1868 was 63,—in 1867, 107. The scheduled assets were 32,270*l.*—in 1867, 47,806*l.*; the liabilities, 50,488*l.*, against 95,731*l.* in 1867.

Mortgages. The number of mortgages registered in 1867-8 under both systems was—

	Number.		Amount.					
	1867.	1868.	1867.			1868.		
			£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Under the old system - -	222	251	122,198	16	5	156,310	13	4
Under Real Property Act -	86	102	37,942	0	0	30,471	0	0
Total - - -	308	353	160,140	16	5	186,781	13	4

Lands' Titles Office. The business of the lands' titles office decreased considerably in nearly all matters except those relating to mortgages; the number of grants registered having fallen from 206 to 138.

Grant deeds enrolled. The number of grant deeds enrolled in the Supreme Court also fell from 449 to 434. These results, together with the Survey Office returns, show a great decrease in the desire or ability to purchase land.

Inquests. The number of inquests on deaths held in 1868 was—males, 120, females, 50,—together, 170, against 150 in 1867.

Public schools, &c. The return of public schools shows that there were in 1868, 8,746 distinct scholars on the rolls; that the average number on the rolls was 5,649; that the average daily attendance was 4,272. The number of teachers and assistant teachers was 172; the pupil teachers 34. The amount contributed by the State was 10,978*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*; and that received for school fees, 3,905*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; the average amount of Government aid per annum for each scholar in daily attendance being 2*l.* 11*s.* 10¼*d.*

The expenditure connected with the Tasmanian scholarships was 817*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; with school exhibitions, 597*l.* 12s. 4*d.* The total expenditure on education borne by the State was therefore 12,393*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, or 2*s.* 5½*d.* per head of the whole population per annum. TASMANIA.

The returns in reference to churches and sunday schools are still, I am sorry to say, extremely imperfect. The particulars relating to the Church of England had to be collected from the published proceedings of the synod, the returns sent in to the Secretary being found to be worthless; but there appears reason to hope that better results may be looked for in another year. Many ministers of other denominations, to whom circulars were sent, either from indifference or disinclination to furnish information, neglected to comply. In regard to the Wesleyan Methodists, although the Chairman of the district has shown every disposition to supply the information sought, he informed me that he was unable to do so on this occasion. Ecclesiastical.

The abstract of the returns filed in the offices of the clerks of the peace by the various friendly societies shows the number of members at the end of 1868 to have been 2,043; the receipts 4,260*l.* 12*s.* 1¾*d.*; the expenditure 3,802*l.* 7*s.* 5¾*d.*; and the capital of the societies 14,493*l.* 16*s.* 0¾*d.* Some of the societies did not file accounts, as required by law, and these figures must not therefore be regarded as complete. Friendly societies.

VIII.—*Vital Statistics.*

The number of births registered in 1868 was 2,990, being only 19 more than in 1867. The rate per 1000 of population in the last three years was— Births.

In 1866 - - - -	28·81
In 1867 - - - - -	30·18
In 1868 - - - -	29·69

The birth rate in 1868 was therefore slightly less than in the previous year, but somewhat in excess of the rate for 1866.

The proportion of births of males to those of females in 1868 was 104·51 to 100.

In 1866 it was 104·12 to 100; and
In 1867 „ 102·66 „

The deaths registered in 1868 (including two which occurred beyond the limits of the Colony) were 1,464, being 46 more than in 1867. Besides these, there were 6 deaths of convicts under sentence at Port Arthur, and one execution (of a male), which were not registered. Taking into account these seven deaths in 1868, the death-rate in the last three years was— Deaths.

In 1866, 13·63 per 1000
In 1867, 14·36 „
In 1868, 14·61 „

The death-rate in 1868 was higher than in any year since 1864. The deaths of males, including those unregistered, were 893, and of females, 578, being in the proportion of 154·5 males to 100 females. The deaths of children under one year were in the proportion of 23·86 per cent. of the whole number. In 1866 the proportion was 19·89 per cent.; and in 1867, 18·90. The mortality among infants in 1868 was therefore considerably in excess.

The 1,464 deaths are classed as follows:—

	Number.		Percentage of total of each Sex.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
I. From Zymotic Diseases - -	151	119	17·04	20·59
II. From Constitutional Diseases -	96	112	10·84	19·38
III. From Local Diseases - - -	413	230	46·62	39·79
IV. From Developmental Diseases -	119	86	13·43	14·88
V. From Violence - - -	99	22	11·17	3·80
From Unspecified Causes - -	8	9	0·90	1·56
All Causes - -	886	578	100·00	100·00

Health and disease are in a great measure affected by the state of the atmosphere; and a knowledge of this is necessary in interpreting the records of mortality. I have Meteorology.

TASMANIA. therefore added, on the present occasion, an abstract made by myself from returns furnished to the Royal Society of Tasmania of the results of observations for the year 1868 by Mr. F. Abbott. We are thus enabled, not only to ascertain the Meteorological conditions in the past year, but also to compare them with the means for 25 years.

The mean pressure of the air in 1868, at the temperature of 32°, was 29·912, the 25 years' average being 29·807. The mean temperature in 1868 was 56·06, being 1·61 degrees above the average; the mean diurnal range, 21·98, or 4·12 degrees above the average; solar intensity, 96·27, or 3·28 in excess; terrestrial radiation, 42·98, or 0·12 in excess; mean position of dew-point, 45·42, or 0·03 below the average; humidity of air, 0·71, or 0·04 below the average; elastic force of vapour, 0·317, or 0·002 in excess. Rain fell on only 113 days, the average number being 145·27, or 32·27 more than in 1868; and the total rainfall was 18·08 inches, being less than the average by 4·57 inches. The mean quantity of ozone in the atmosphere was 7·64, against an average of 7·18. The total wind-force was 630·28 lbs. per square foot, against an average of 755·78 lbs. June was a singularly still month, the total wind-force being only 8·06 lbs.,—less than one-third of the average.

The air being thus found to have been hot and sluggish, it is not difficult to account for the excess in the mortality. This, however, must have been checked in some degree by the excess of ozone, and by the dryness of the atmosphere.

Diseases, &c. in charitable institutions. Although, for convenience in printing, the return of diseases and deaths in charitable institutions is placed after the returns of marriages, it will be better to consider it first. I shall content myself with observing, that the total number of cases of disease treated is stated to have been 1,894 and the number of deaths 200, or 10·56 per cent. In 1867, the cases were 2,266, the deaths 216, and the percentage of deaths, 9·53. In the Queen's asylum there has not been any death during the last three years.

Marriages. The number of marriages registerered in 1868 was 654, being an increase of 57 as compared with that in the preceding year. The ratio of marriages to population at the end of the year was 6·49 per 1,000, being greater than in 1866 or 1867, when the ratios were 6·20, and 5·86, respectively.

Vaccination. The number of persons vaccinated during 1868 in the hospitals, and in the Queen's asylum, was 95, of whom 82 are stated to have been inspected on the eighth day after the operation. Seventy-four cases are said to have proved in every respect successful.

IX.—*Miscellaneous.*

Political franchise. The number of electors for the Legislative Council at the end of last year appears to have been 2,232, 150 having been struck off, and 115 added to, the rolls during the year. As regards the House of Assembly, the electors on the rolls at the end of the year, as stated by the different returning officers, numbered 11,367, 1,474 having been removed from, and 1,614 added to, the rolls. These numbers must, however, be regarded as only approximate, those relating to the House of Assembly exhibiting some manifest errors, which, in the present state of the law, I am not able to correct. I would suggest that whenever the electoral Act is amended, a provision should be introduced, requiring the returning officers to show at the foot of the new rolls the following particulars:—Number of electors on former roll; number struck off therefrom; number added to new roll; total number on new roll. There would then be no difficulty in obtaining accurate information in this respect.

The meteorological returns have already been made the subject of remark under the previous head.

Conclusion.

The returns contained in the accompanying volume afford better ground of hope, and of confidence in the future of this Colony, than any which have appeared in the statistical records for many years past. One of our most important and profitable industries—whaling—has been prosecuted with increased energy and success. The works of the Launceston and Western Railway are progressing satisfactorily, and the line is expected to be opened in the early part of next year: the Mersey and Deloraine line is also advancing towards completion; and an engineering survey of a main line to connect the two principal ports at the opposite ends of the Island has been made. The establishment of a customs union for this group of Colonies has been proposed, and the first practical step taken, by appointing the time and place for a meeting of representatives to discuss the terms. An immigration agent has been despatched to Europe, at a time peculiarly favourable for his operations, when the attention of the old countries is being more

seriously turned to these southern Colonies, and when the latter are rising in public favour. The credit of our Colony stands high in the English money market, and capitalists are ready to furnish funds for national undertakings of a productive character.

It is true that the pastoral interest is unusually depressed by the decline in the price of wool, and by the prevalence of fluke; but these drawbacks will be, more or less, neutralized by the brisk demand for Australian meat in foreign markets, the effect of which must be to encourage the production in this Colony of meat rather than of wool; and it is a fortunate circumstance, that, just as the necessity arises of resorting to a change of system in this respect, the means by which that change is to be effected are presented to our hands. The depression now existing among the stock-owners will therefore, probably, not be of long continuance, and is likely to be countervailed by those other causes, actual and contingent, of prosperity to which I have referred.

It is therefore with a feeling of more hopefulness than it has hitherto been possible to cherish, that I now place these records in your hands.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. C. NOWELL, Government Statistician.

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No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JAMES FERGUSSON, Bart., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 60.)

MY LORD, Government House, Adelaide, December 8, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the South Australian Blue Book for 1868, together with six (6) copies of the "Statistical Register" for the same year, the work of Mr. Josiah Boothby, Under-Secretary to the Government.

2. The voluminous tables comprised in the Register, and the abstract prefixed, evidence a gradual but steady progress in the material development of the Colony, and no unfavourable feature. I must, however, remark that there is a small annual decrease in the adult male population; although a total natural increase of 2 per cent.

3. The Secretary of State has on former occasions expressed his commendation of Mr. Boothby's able and valuable work, and the Colony is fortunate in possessing among its public servants a gentleman so eminent as a statistician, as well as so competent in the discharge of his ordinary duties.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES FERGUSSON,
Governor.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT to the Honourable JOHN TUTHILL BAGOT, M.L.C., Chief Secretary, &c.

SIR,— Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, October 7, 1869.

In presenting to you the "Statistical Register of South Australia for 1868," I have the honour to submit the following report for the information of His Excellency the Governor, briefly bringing under notice the result of statistical inquiry, so far as relates to the social and material condition of the community during the period under review.

Population.

The total number of the population on 31st December, 1868, is estimated to have been 176,298 souls (91,347 males and 84,951 females), or an addition of 3,438 persons. The natural increase from excess of births over deaths was 4,731 souls (2,328 males and 2,403 females); but the departures (by sea) exceeded the arrivals by 1,293 (972 males and 321 females), leaving a net increase of 3,438 only (1,356 males and 2,082 females),

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as above stated, being the smallest record since 1860. The rate of increase was under two per cent., as compared with 2·2 per cent. during the previous year; whilst, in the four years preceding, the annual augmentation had been at the rate of five per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Seven thousand two hundred and forty-seven births were registered in 1868, or 206 more than in the preceding year; the birth rate being 42 per thousand of the population at the commencement of the year, as against 41·6 per thousand in 1867. The male births numbered 3,709, and the female 3,538, in comparison with 3,616 and 3,425 respectively the year before—about 105 boys being born to every 100 girls. The total number of births is the highest recorded here in a single year; the birth rate is, however, three per thousand below that existing a few years ago.

The mortality during the twelve months was less than in any year since 1863, with one exception (1865); the rate, 14·5 per thousand, being also the lowest recorded. The total deaths numbered 2,516 (males, 1,381, and females, 1,135), showing a decrease of 423 upon the year 1867, when the death rate was 17·4 per thousand. Decreased fatality is chiefly apparent in the zymotic, local, and developmental classes of disease.

In 1867 no less than sixty-two per cent. of the total deaths were children under five years of age—measles, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and diarrhœa having proved exceedingly fatal—being, in fact, eleven per cent. over the rate of 1866. Last year, on the other hand, mortality from these diseases was comparatively infrequent; the total number of children dying under five years old being reduced from 1,831 to 1,474 or to 50·1 per cent. of the gross mortality. Fewer deaths of infants were registered, the number dying under two years of age being 1,290, as compared with 1,558; the rate of infantile mortality declining from fifty-three per cent. to fifty-one per cent. of the total deaths, or slightly above the average.

The natural increase of the population amounted to 4,731 souls, or 629 more than in 1867, and being 2·74 per cent. on the number living at the beginning of the year. The rate of increase in the previous year was 2·43 per cent.

Twelve hundred and eighty-six marriages were celebrated, being ninety-three less than in 1867, and fewer than in either of the preceding four years.

Public Worship.

The returns furnished by the several religious denominations show thirty-six additional churches or chapels, and twenty-one additional rooms used for religious services, making the total number of places of worship to be 754, with accommodation for 112,878 persons, or more than sufficient to seat the whole population of fourteen years of age and upwards. The following table gives the information afforded on the subject for each of the three past years:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
Number of churches or chapels -	492	511	547
„ sittings in ditto - -	91,816	98,496	103,488
„ rooms used, &c. -	153	186	207
„ sittings in ditto - -	6,361	7,245	9,390
Total number of places of worship	645	697	754
„ sittings provided	98,177	105,741	112,878
Sunday schools - - -	398	416	446
Sunday-school teachers - -	3,807	3,961	4,150
Sunday scholars - - -	25,914	26,506	28,719

Sunday schools now number 446, or thirty more than last year, the number of teachers being 4,150 (males, 2,063, and 2,087 females), and of scholars 28,719, of whom 14,291 were boys and 14,428 girls.

Education.

The returns furnished by the Central Board of Education relate only to licensed schools, of which there are 325, conducted by 223 schoolmasters and 102 schoolmistresses, showing an increase of seventeen schools upon the number given in the preceding year. The aggregate number of children on the roll was 15,657—boys 8,699, girls 6,958—or an increase of 1,057 scholars. The average number on the roll for each school was 48 against 47·4. The average number of scholars attending was 6,834 boys and 5,308 girls, or together, 12,142, as compared with 11,448 last year, the proportion of

children in daily attendance being 77·5 per cent. of the gross number on the roll. Out of 15,657 scholars, 1,553 only were at city schools, 1,446 in other corporate towns, and the remainder in the country districts. One-half of the children in attendance were from seven to ten years of age, one-fourth under seven years old, and the other fourth were eleven years of age and upwards. The average number of destitute children attending the schools was 1,438. Seventy-nine school-houses have been built under the supervision of the Board, and are now held in trust for educational purposes, the total grant-in-aid being 14,723*l.*

The grant for stipends amounted to 16,680*l.*, which, together with the fees paid by parents, &c., 14,137*l.*, shows that 30,817*l.* have been received by teachers, or twenty-one shillings and threepence from the Government for each scholar on the rolls, and twenty shillings and threepence in the shape of school fees.

The aggregate amount expended by the State for educational purposes during the past decade is 190,346*l.*, the sum spent last year being 24,540*l.* In 1864 the Legislature voted the sum of 18,388*l*, additional provision being made yearly as required.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year 1868 amounted to 716,004*l.*, or within 290*l.* of the sum collected during the previous twelve months; whilst the expenditure was reduced from 1,003,271*l.* to 852,689*l.*, or by 150,582*l.* With two exceptions—the sales of waste lands and the receipts from the railways—but little difference appears in the several items of income for the two years. An increase of 52,727*l.* is shown in land sales, being 224,490*l.* as against 171,763*l.*, and a reduction of 41,809*l.* upon railways, the receipts from this source having fallen from 126,420*l.* to 84,611*l.*, owing to the failure of the harvest. The customs receipts amounted to 198,531*l.*, as compared with 200,832*l.*

Customs duties being the sole means of taxation resorted to in this Province, and the tariff having remained unchanged for five years past, the amount of the burden the inhabitants of this Colony labour under for the support of Government is readily ascertainable. It is only necessary to state that the average contribution of each individual towards the protection of life and property and other duties of the State during the past five years has been twenty-six shillings yearly to show that South Australia is the lightest taxed community in the world. In 1865 the Customs duties averaged 30*s.* per head; in 1866, 27*s.* 2*d.*; in 1867, 23*s.* 3*d.*; and last year 22*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population. Did the community now contribute taxes in the same ratio as in 1865 the receipts from customs would reach 265,000*l.*, instead of 198,000*l.*—the sum collected last year.

Although the aggregate receipts and expenditure of the State are large, considering the number of the population, it must be remembered that the Government of a young community having vast landed estate is compelled to undertake responsibilities borne in older countries by individuals or associations. The interest on, and redemption of, the public works debt, the formation and maintenance of internal means of communication, roads, railways and tramways, telegraphs, waterworks, and the construction of other large public works, as also the surveys of land, entail heavy costs, but are met by receipts derivable from the sale and occupation of the waste lands, and by the charges levied for the accomodation afforded to the public. Again, the large expenditure for education, police, hospitals, destitute poor, and lunatic asylums is defrayed by the State, without that further local taxation resorted to in the mother country.

During the past ten years the gross receipts on account of the public revenue (exclusive of loans raised for public works) amounted to 6,936,789*l.*, and the expenditure to 7,148,427*l.* Of the former sum the ordinary revenue has contributed 4,306,092*l.*, of which 1,733,659*l.* accrued from *taxation*, and the remaining 2,572,433*l.* from other general receipts; the total sum of 6,936,789*l.* being made up by the proceeds of the land fund, amounting to 2,630,696*l.*

During the same period the total expenditure has amounted to 7,148,427*l.*, out of which 2,919,780*l.* has been spent on public works (exclusive of payments from loans 1,108,248*l.*), and 306,211*l.* upon immigration, together 3,225,991*l.*, or 595,295*l.* more than the land fund produced during those years. The remaining expenditure is lumped together under the vague head of Establishments, Miscellaneous Services, &c.; the public accounts, as at present rendered, failing to exhibit how much represents the actual cost of governing the country, or what proportion should be debited to the multifarious extra-governmental undertakings here imposed on the State.

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Loans for Public Works.

The total amount of the bonded debt at the close of the year was 1,663,100*l.* sterling. The total sum authorized to be raised since the first loan was contracted is 2,519,500*l.*, of which, bonds representing 2,064,400*l.* have been issued, and 401,300*l.* redeemed, leaving the amount outstanding as above stated.

Banking.

The several banks have issued the half-yearly returns as required by Act of Parliament, and the usual comparative statements have been published. Following is an abstract showing the aggregate average assets and liabilities for the last half-year of 1866, 1867, and 1868 respectively :—

LIABILITIES.

	1866.			1867.			1868.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Notes in circulation	239,372	8	2	247,786	4	1	225,708	11	1
Bills in circulation	42,246	19	4	10,332	17	1	11,793	19	0
Balances due to other banks	32,210	9	2	39,600	18	9	18,272	13	9
Deposits	1,401,565	9	5	1,272,164	10	9	1,293,420	1	0
Total average liabilities	£1,715,395	6	1	£1,569,884	10	8	£1,549,195	4	10

ASSETS.

	1866.			1867			1868.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Coin and bullion	318,927	5	5	378,265	17	3	333,224	0	5
Government securities	4,600	0	0	38,850	14	10	25,000	0	0
Landed property and bank premises	86,404	9	1	99,745	8	1	102,088	10	1
Notes and bills of other banks	26,611	8	9	17,367	7	2	32,979	1	3
Balances due from from other banks	63,426	7	3	74,441	9	8	71,013	12	5
Notes and bills discounted and other debts due to banks not enumerated	3,120,092	10	10	2,559,742	14	1	2,669,886	7	8
Total average assets	£3,620,062	1	4	£3,168,413	11	1	£3,234,209	11	10

Although the differences existing in the several items of the returns for the two periods are of no great amount, they tend to show an improvement in confidence after the severe pressure of the preceding year. The deposits increased from 1,272,164*l.* to 1,293,420*l.*, whilst the notes and bills discounted advanced from 2,559,742*l.* to 2,669,886*l.* The aggregate liabilities were 1,549,195*l.*, as against 1,569,884*l.*, and the assets 3,234,209*l.*, as compared with 3,168,413*l.* the year before.

Savings Bank.

Financial improvement is also shown by the returns issued from the savings bank ; a large increase appearing in the number of depositors, and the payments into the bank being greater than in any previous year. The total number of new accounts opened was 2,784, or 463 more than last year ; the aggregate number of depositors being 9,659, or an addition of 976. The total amount of deposits was 170,566*l.* as against 145,207*l.*, an increase of 25,359*l.* ; whilst the withdrawals amounted to 147,660*l.*, as compared with 133,848*l.* the preceding year. The amount at the credit of the several depositors at the close of the year was 312,728*l.*, or 38,220*l.* additional. The following statement affords an interesting retrospect of the bank's business during the past five years :—

	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New accounts opened	1,806	2,333	2,135	2,321	2,784
Increase in depositors	1,132	1,233	603	1,004	976
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount deposited	120,924	131,115	124,427	145,207	170,566
„ withdrawn	87,731	115,751	147,524	133,848	147,660
„ depositors' balances	231,972	258,693	249,329	274,508	312,728
„ reserve fund	13,431	15,378	17,370	19,587	21,147
„ total funds	245,403	274,071	266,700	294,095	333,875

Six per cent. per annum was allowed to depositors in the shape of interest, as in 1867. 25,000*l.* is invested in Government securities, and 187,254*l.* of the deposits is lent on mortgage of freehold property, at eight per cent. The reserve fund amounts to 21,147*l.* sterling. Agencies have been established in eighteen of the principal townships in connection with telegraph and post offices.

Imports and Exports.

With an almost total failure of the harvest, it might have been expected that the trade returns for 1868 would have been singularly unfavourable. It is, however, satisfactory to note that although the trade in one of the chief staples (breadstuffs) fell off one half, the increase in other branches of commerce went far to make up the deficiency, and that the total exports of produce exceeded the amount of imports retained for home consumption by more than half a million sterling. In place of 658,288*l.*, the sum of 580,790*l.* represented the balance of exports of produce, over imports consumed.

The combined import and export trade amounted to 5,057,810*l.*, or 613,206*l.* less than in the previous year. The total imports were valued at 2,238,510*l.*, or a decrease of 267,884*l.*, and the aggregate exports at 2,819 300*l.*, or 345,322*l.* less; the diminution in the quantity of goods purchased nearly corresponding with the decrease in the staples exported.

The following statement shows the combined import and export trade for each year since 1859 inclu ve; the total imports, the imports retained for home consumption, the imports re-exported, the aggregate exports, the value of staple produce exported, and the difference between the latter and the value of imports consumed in the Province:—

Year.	Combined Import and Export Trade.	Total Imports.	Imports retained for Home Comsumption.	Imports re-exported.	Total Exports.	Exports of Produce of the Colony.	Balance Produce exported over Imports consumed.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1859	3,163,370	1,507,494	1,353,783	153,711	1,655,876	1,502,165	148,382
1860	3,423,307	1,639,591	1,432,201	207,390	1,783,716	1,576,326	144,125
1861	4,008,329	1,976,018	1,782,346	193,672	2,032,311	1,838,639	56,293
1862	3,966,452	1,820,656	1,595,347	225,309	2,145,796	1,920,487	325,140
1863	4,387,096	2,028,279	1,764,818	263,461	2,358,817	2,095,356	330,538
1864	5,718,476	2,412,931	2,122,923	290,008	3,305,545	3,015,537	892,614
1865	6,057,442	2,927,596	2,552,407	375,189	3,129,846	2,754,657	202,250
1866	5,693,879	2,835,142	2,516,128	319,014	2,858,737	2,539,723	23,595
1867	5,671,016	2,506,394	2,117,867	388,527	3,164,622	2,776,095	658,228
1868	5,057,810	2,238,510	2,023,036	215,474	2,819,300	2,603,826	580,790

The trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 2,837,249*l.* as against 2,624,268*l.* last year. Of this, 1,411,508*l.* represented imports, or 213,265*l.* more than last year, and 1,425,741*l.* exports thereto, or nearly the same amount as in 1867. The balance of trade was in favour of South Australia by 14,232*l.* only, as compared with 227,781*l.* in the year preceding.

Inter-colonial business of course chiefly suffered, transactions with the neighbouring Colonies being fully one-third less. With Victoria the combined import and export trade amounted to 1,027,340*l.*, as against 1,372,971*l.*, or 345,631*l.* below that of 1867. The balance in favour of this Province was 357,586*l.*, as compared with 464,254*l.*, or 106,668*l.* less. We imported from Melbourne goods of the value of 334,876*l.*, a reduction of 119,482*l.*, and exported produce thereto worth 692,463*l.*, as against 918,613*l.*, or a decrease of 226,150*l.* on the previous year.

Again, with New South Wales, the falling off in trade was considerable—in fact, greater in proportion than with the adjoining Colony; the balance of trade was this year in favour of South Australia by 172,575*l.*, instead of against us by 106,039*l.*, as was the case in 1867. The total transactions amounted to 525,812*l.*, as compared with 932,296*l.*, or a diminution of 406,484*l.*, or nearly one-half. The imports from thence reached only 176,618*l.*, instead of to 519,168*l.*; whilst the produce exported thereto was valued at 349,194*l.*, instead of 413,128*l.*, or by 63,934*l.* less. The reduction in the imports is chiefly accounted for by the exceptionally large quantity of river-borne wool brought down from the Darling in 1867, represented as of the value of 414,415*l.* Last year the value of the cargoes brought down stream was 86,121*l.* only; the exports by

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way of the Murray amounting to 70,311*l.*, as against 94,914*l.*, showing a reduction of 24,603*l.*

Exports to Queensland were valued at 107,193*l.*, nearly the same amount as in the previous year; but those to New Zealand fell from 83,835*l.* to 24,039*l.* only.

From Tasmania we imported timber, &c., worth 22,556*l.*; or, 6,669*l.* less than in the preceding twelve months.

Trade with Western Australia was about equal in amount to that of last year; the imports thence (including bullion, 24,508*l.*), amounting to 46,157*l.*, and the exports to 40,027*l.* The value of the wool brought here for transhipment was 12,448*l.*, as compared with 11,431*l.* in 1867.

The shipments to the Cape, chiefly breadstuffs, amounted to 31,159*l.*, as against 47,896*l.*; whilst the exports (copper) to India increased from 69,343*l.* to 73,409*l.* With Singapore and Batavia more trade was done; the exports to the former increasing from 6,810*l.* to 8,035*l.*, and with the latter from 3,124*l.* to 4,934*l.*

The Mauritius trade shows a reduction in the imports, 114,438*l.*, as against 137,248*l.*; and, in exports thereto (excluding specie, 46,000*l.*), of 2,902*l.*—being 17,005*l.*, instead of 19,907*l.* the year before. The imports from China amounted to 67,334*l.*, as against 56,650*l.*; from Sweden, 31,979*l.*, as against 27,083*l.*; and from the United States, 18,296*l.*, as compared with 23,006*l.*

Bullion and coin to the extent of 64,508*l.* was imported—or 28,884*l.* less than last year; the exports amounting to 49,221*l.*, as against 325*l.* last year. The shipments are thus recorded:—South Australian gold, 773½ ounces, 2,936*l.*; ditto, silver, 1,140 ounces, 285*l.*; and coin, 46,000*l.* The balance of specie retained in the Colony was, therefore, 15,287*l.* sterling.

Exports the produce of the Colony.

Continuing the practice hitherto adopted, I append the following returns showing the progress made in the chief branches of industry during the past decade. The first table subjoined gives the total value of the Colonial produce exported, and of the three principal staples, in the years 1859, 1863, and 1868, respectively, the commencement, middle, and termination of the first decade; also the aggregate value of such exports during the quinquennial periods ending 1863, and 1868; together with the average annual shipments, in the same periods, and the proportion which the shipments of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral products respectively bore to the total shipments:—

Period.	Total Exports of Produce.	Of which Exports.			
		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Wool.	Copper and other Minerals.	Miscellaneous Products.
	£	£	£	£	£
In the year 1859	1,502,165	554,265	484,977	411,018	51,905
„ 1863	2,095,356	747,116	715,935	542,393	89,912
„ 1868	2,603,826	568,491	1,305,280	624,022	106,033
Total in five years, 1859–63	8,932,973	3,146,513	3,632,557	2,399,739	354,164
„ 1864–68	13,689,838	4,944,050	4,812,123	3,513,672	419,993
Average of five years, 1859–63	1,786,595	629,303	606,511	479,948	70,883
„ 1864–68	2,737,968	988,810	962,424	702,734	84,000
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1859–63	100·0	35·2	33·9	27·0	3·9
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1864–68	100·0	36·2	35·2	25·6	3·0

It requires but a cursory glance at the foregoing statement to ascertain the development in the production of the three staples, wheat, wool, and copper, during the past ten years; and, although periods of depression have occasionally arisen, owing chiefly to exceptional seasons, the progress of the country, as shown by the exports of produce, has been rapid and substantial. During the ten years, the shipments of produce have amounted to twenty-two and-a-half millions sterling; and that, whilst during the first half of the period the exports averaged one and three-quarter millions, during the latter half they had increased to an average of two and three-quarter millions sterling. It will also be observed that the increase has been progressive; for, in 1859, the total exports

were valued at 1,502,165*l.*; those of the year 1863, at 2,095,356*l.*; and of the year just closed, at 2,603,826*l.* sterling.

In comparing the average annual shipments of the three staple commodities during the first half of the decennial period with those of the last, it will be found that the latter shows an augmentation of more than 50 per cent. in each class. The average annual export for the five years ending 1863 (of breadstuffs) was 629,303*l.*, whilst that of the quinquennial period ending 1868, was 988,810*l.*; of wool, 606,511*l.*, as compared with 962,424*l.*; and of minerals 479,948*l.*, as against 702,734*l.*

The following statement shows as closely as possible the relative value of wheat, wool, and copper, as compared with the total exports of produce:—

Five Years, ending with	Ratio of Average of Five Years' Exports of each Class to Total Exports = 100.			
	Breadstuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1859	39·3	31·5	27·1	2·1
1860	38·2	31·6	27·6	2·6
1861	38·0	32·5	26·7	2·8
1862	35·5	33 4	27·2	3·9
1863	35·2	33·9	27·0	3·9
1864	38·8	31·8	25·7	3·7
1865	41·2	30·8	24·5	3·5
1866	38·3	31·9	26·2	3·6
1867	38·8	32·1	26·0	3·1
1868	36·2	35·2	25·6	3·0

Taking the average of the five years terminating with 1863, the value of breadstuffs formed 35·2, wool 33·9, copper 27·0, and miscellaneous articles 3·9 per cent. of the total exports. Taking the like average for the similar period ending in 1868, we find breadstuffs contributed 36·2, wool 35·2, copper 25·6, and miscellaneous articles 3·0 per cent. of the gross produce.

Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.

When it is remembered that the harvest of 1867–8, owing to the ravages of red rust, produced little more than one-third of the average yield of the last ten years, that is, $4\frac{2}{3}$ bushels to the acre instead of twelve, the decline in the export trade in breadstuffs is less than might have been anticipated. The pressure upon the agricultural classes was partly relieved by the advance in the average price of wheat from 4*s.* 5*d.* to 7*s.* 1*d.* per bushel. The disastrous effect of the failure of the harvest was the more severely felt from the prolific yield of the preceding year ($14\frac{1}{3}$ bushels) having induced the farmers to place a very much larger area of land under crop.

Reference to the following table shows the results of the wheat harvest, and the export trade in breadstuffs during each of the past five seasons.

Year.	Acres under Wheat.	Wheat Harvest.	Average yield per Acre.	Flour and Wheat shipped.	Average price. Wheat, ℔ bushel.	Total value Breadstuffs, Grain, &c., shipped.
		Bushels.	Bs. lbs.	Tons.	*s.* *d.*	£
1864	335,758	4,691,919	14 0	76,553	8 6	1,464,593
1865	390,836	4,252,949	11 0	60,513	8 7	1,228,480
1866	410,608	3,587,800	8 44	38,808	6 2	645,401
1867	457,628	6,561,451	14 20	97,311	4 5	1,037,085
1868	550,456	2,579,894	4 40	33,520	7 1	568,491

During the three years, 1863, 1864, and 1865, when the harvests yielded slightly above the average of twelve bushels, we shipped cereals at the rate of 66,000 tons yearly; during 1867 we exported 97,000 tons, but in 1868, owing to the causes above stated, only 33,500 tons.

The frequent fluctuations in the wheat market often rendering comparisons between the values of cereal exports of little avail, and in order to prevent misconception arising therefrom, the following tabular statement of quantities has been prepared. It gives the shipment of breadstuffs in 1859, 1863, and 1868; also the total exports for the quin-

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quennial periods ending 1863 and 1868, and the average yearly shipments during those periods :—

Period.	Flour.	Wheat.	Total in Flour, at 45 bushels to ton.	Bran and Pollard.
	Tons.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1859 - - -	19,350	292,736	25,855	4,330
„ 1863 - - - - -	39,722	932,272	60,434	7,381
„ 1868 - - -	23,591	447,008	33,520	1,787
Total in five years, 1859-63 - -	148,853	2,835,112	211,855	26,589
„ 1864-68 -	177,858	5,798,248	306,708	20,649
Average of five years, 1859-63 -	29,770	567,022	42,371	5,317
„ 1864-68 -	35,572	1,159,650	61,341	4,130

It will be observed that last year, notwithstanding the deficient harvest, we exported one-third more grain than we did ten years ago, so greatly has cultivation increased ; also that the average shipments of the last five years of the decade show an increase of one-half, or 61,341 tons as compared with 42,371 tons yearly.

Wool.

Twenty thousand more bales of wool were shipped in 1868 than in the previous year ; the total quantity exported being 29,629,525 lbs., in 86,913 bales, as compared with 22,633,792 lbs., in 66,395 bales, during the previous year, showing an increase of 6,995,733 lbs., and of 20,518 bales. In three years the shipment of wool from this Colony has increased fifty per cent. Only 730,335 lbs. (2,284 bales) of the above quantity was the produce of neighbouring Colonies passing through our ports.

The following table shows the remarkable development of the wool trade during the three past years.

Year ended 31st December.	1866.	1867.	1868.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
From Port Adelaide - - - - -	12,164,497	12,948,653	18,845,487
Port Wakefield - - - - - -	3,374,226	1,138,200	1,763,450
Port Robe - - - - - -	1,539,500	1,625,200	1,793,289
Port Augusta - - - - - -	857,188	2,329,515	4,210,307
Port MacDonnell - - - - -	1,423,919	1,059,285	1,927,369
Port Victor - - - - - -	113,400	—	—
Port Caroline - - - - -	266,793	249,442	359,288
Total Export of South Australian wool -	19,739,523	19,350,195	28,899,190
Produce of other Colonies - - -	1,168,562	3,283,597	730,335
Total shipment (lbs.) - - -	20,908,085	22,633,792	29,629,525
Total shipment (bales) - -	61,977	66,395	86,913
	£	£	£
Total value of South Australian wool - -	990,173	919,532	1,305,280
Total value of other wool - - -	74,313	224,809	41,043
Total value - - - -	1,064,486	1,144,341	1,346,323

Of the total shipments, 71,056 bales left Port Adelaide direct for London, and 15,857 bales by way of Melborne. In the preceding year, 46,607 bales were shipped direct home, and 19,788 by the Melbourne route.

As the busiest time of the wool season is towards the close of the year, a portion of the clip is returned in the exports of the ensuing year ; it is, consequently, desirable to make up returns from June to June, in order to avoid error when comparing the clip of one season with that of another. The following statement, showing the actual shipments of each of the past five clips, readily affords the desired information :—

Year ended 30th June.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Port Adelaide - - -	10,381,539	9,277,556	11,448,696	16,405,079	17,236,166
„ Wakefield - - -	1,833,800	2,981,078	2,301,826	1,573,750	1,327,900
„ Robe - - - -	1,760,400	1,736,460	1,639,400	1,480,480	1,771,699
„ MacDonnell - - -	1,014,850	800,790	1,468,772	1,626,097	1,486,949
„ Wallaroo - - -	—	77,507	—	—	—
„ Augusta - - - -	2,206,325	998,315	857,188	2,570,915	3,968,907
„ Victor or Port Elliot - -	294,000	179,800	—	—	—
„ Caroline - - - -	—	72,383	289,229	370,348	197,314
Total weight (lbs.) -	17,490,914	16,123,889	18,005,111	24,026,669	25,998,935

The following figures give the quantity and value of South Australian wool shipped in 1859, 1863, and 1868; also during the quinquennial periods terminating in the years 1863 and 1868, and the average annual shipments of those periods:—

Period.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£
In the year 1859 - - -	9,496,715	484,977
„ 1863 - - -	15,566,787	715,935
„ 1868 - - -	28,899,190	1,305,280
Total in five years, 1859–63 - -	63,188,273	3,032,557
„ 1864–68 -	100,350,893	4,182,123
Average of five years, 1859–63 -	12,637,655	606,511
„ 1864–68 -	20,070,178	962,424

It will be seen from the above that, notwithstanding the terrible effects of the drought, the increased production of the past five years has been most remarkable—in the five years ended 1868, the average annual shipment being twenty million pounds weight, as against twelve and a half million pounds. In 1859, the export amounted to 9,496,715 lbs., in the year 1863 it had increased to 15,566,787 lbs., and in 1868 to 28,899,190 lbs., showing a rate of progression during the intervening periods of sixty and eighty-five per cent. respectively.

Minerals.

During the past decade the value of the mineral produce exported from South Australia is returned at nearly six millions sterling. During the first half of that period the mineral exports were of the value of 2,399,739*l.*, showing an average of 479,948*l.* yearly, whilst during the last five years the aggregate shipments have amounted to 3,513,672*l.*, or an annual average of 702,374*l.* sterling. Subjoined are the quantities and values of ores and metals exported during the latter period:—

Minerals.		1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
Fine Copper - - -	Cwts.	134,055	100,196	129,272	156,863	104,227
	£	637,791	433,795	584,509	627,384	400,691
Copper Ore - -	Tons.	4,545	16,176	16,824	11,430	20,725
	£	38,125	184,677	225,683	113,409	207,519
Lead - - - -	Cwts.	63	82	1,351	3,391	3,049
	£	121	133	2,991	5,464	5,670
Lead Ore - - -	Tons.	567	86	648	212	76
	£	13,107	1,507	11,318	3,353	1,245
Regulus - - -	Tons.	52	—	—	25	10
	£	2,480	—	—	560	213
Total value (including other minerals) - - -		691,624	620,112	824,501	753,413	624,022

The continued depression in the copper market is traceable in the foregoing statement, for while production has increased the money value has declined. Less fine copper and more unsmelted ore was exported in 1868 than in the preceding year. Instead of sending

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away *weekly* 150 tons of pure copper, only 100 tons were shipped; whilst 20,725 tons of copper ore were exported, as compared with 11,430 tons in 1867. The total value of all the minerals exported was 624,022*l.*, or 129,391*l.* less than in the previous year. The progress of mining industry can, however, only be accurately estimated by the returns of *quantity* of produce raised and shipped. Materials for a comparison of such, extending over a period of ten years, is subjoined:—

Period.	Copper.	Lead.	Copper Ore.	Lead Ore.	Regulus.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1859 - - -	56,745	1,261	7,306	262	141
„ 1863 - - -	96,039	271	5,343	451	39
„ 1868 - - -	104,227	3,049	20,725	76	10
Total in five years 1859–63 -	365,132	5,038	33,779	893	1,326
„ 1864–68 - -	624,613	7,936	69,700	1,589	87
Average of five years, 1859–63 -	73,026	1,007	6,756	178	265
„ 1864–68 - -	124,922	1,587	13,940	318	17

Analyzing the above, it will be found that during the five years ended 1863 the quantity of fine copper exported was 365,132 cwt., and of ore, 33,779 tons, giving a yearly average of 73,026 cwts. and 6,756 tons. During the succeeding five years ended in 1868 the shipment of metal had risen to 624,613 cwts., or 124,922 cwts. annually; and of ores to 69,700 tons, or 13,940 tons yearly. The latter half of the decade shows an augmented production of nearly 100 per cent.

Land Cultivation and Live Stock.

The following extracts from my report on the Agricultural and Live Stock Statistics for the season ended 31st March last, supply full information on this subject to the latest date:—

"During the year 1868 the area of land alienated by the Crown amounted to 199,693 acres, or 55,672 acres more than in the year preceding, making the total area of land in the possession of freeholders to be 3,769,897 acres, or equivalent to 21·9 acres per head of the population, or 1·1 acre more than last year. About two-thirds of this land is in the occupation of the freeholders themselves. Ten years ago there were 18·8 acres alienated for each individual, or 3·1 less than at present, showing that the acquisition of real estate has more than kept pace with the increase in population.

"Twenty-one per cent., or one in every five acres, of purchased land was under cultivation, being slightly below the proportion shown in the previous year, when twenty-three per cent. was under tillage. The total area under cultivation was 808,234 acres, or 2,500 less than in 1867–8, which season showed an increase of 71,020 acres, or ten per cent., over its predecessor. When it is considered that the disastrous effects of the preceding harvest, unparalleled in the Colony's history, were pressing most heavily on the whole body of agriculturists, it is the more extraordinary that the area of land brought under the plough should have been so closely maintained, and the check to agriculture only have affected the *annual increase* in the breadth of land under tillage.

"Last season four and three-quarter acres were under cultivation for each individual of the population, or fourteen acres for each male of fourteen years and upwards. During the season just closed the same proportions were maintained.

"In 1867–8 no less than 68 out of every 100 acres of cultivated land were cropped with wheat. During the past season the cultivation of this cereal amounted to sixty-six per cent. of the total cultivation, the difference, only two per cent., being made up by the additional area under barley and hay.

"The total acreage under wheat amounted to 533,035 acres, as compared with 550,456 acres in the previous season, or a decrease of 17,471 acres. If to this be added the probable increase in wheat culture which might have been anticipated under ordinary circumstances, the actual decline in wheat production, consequent upon the total failure of the preceding harvest, may be estimated at 70,000 acres.

"It must, however, be noted that in the two preceding seasons the cultivation of wheat had increased one-third, and that the crop of 1868–9, although less than that of 1867–8 by 17,421 acres, as above stated, exceeded that of 1866–7 by 75,407 acres. In

1866–7, we grew two and three-quarter acres of wheat; in 1868–9, three and one-fifth acres; and last season three and one-tenth acres for each individual of the population.

"The total quantity of grain reaped was 5,173,970 bushels, giving an average of nine and two-thirds bushels to the acre. It is useless to institute a comparison with the previous year's return, as that only gave 2,579,894 bushels, or four and two-thirds bushels per acre—almost a total failure, and unprecedented in our history. Taking the average yield for the whole Colony, for a number of seasons, at twelve bushels, the crop of 1868–9, was two and one-third bushels below it. During the preceding ten years, on only three occasions has the average yield been so light as 9 bushels 42 lbs. The following table shows the total area of land under cultivation, the acreage under wheat, the gross produce of the harvest, and the average yield per acre for each season, since that of 1857–8:—

Season.	Acres cultivated.	Acres under Wheat.	Produce, Wheat.	Average per Acre.
			Bushels.	Bush. lbs.
1858–9 - -	264,462	188,703	2,109,544	11 11
1859–60 - -	361,884	218,216	2,103,411	9 38
1860–1 - -	428,816	273,672	3,576,593	13 4
1861–2 - -	486,667	310,636	3,410,756	10 59
1862–3 - -	494,511	320,160	3,841,824	12 0
1863–4 - -	555,968	335,758	4,691,919	14 0
1864–5 - -	587,775	390,836	4,252,949	11 0
1865–6 - -	660,569	410,608	3,587,800	8 44
1866–7 - -	739,714	457,628	6,561,451	14 20
1867–8 - -	810,734	550,456	2,579,894	4 40
1868–9 - -	808,234	533,035	5,173,970	9 42

"Fifty per cent. more barley was sown, 21,244 acres against 13,816 acres, the total produce amounting to 311,142 bushels, as against 193,341 bushels in the previous season; the average yield being very low, only 14 bushels 32 lbs. to the acre. The increased attention paid to the growth of this cereal cannot but produce valuable results. As the demand for malting purposes is annually increasing, doubtless care will be taken to cultivate the description of grain most suitable for the brewer.

"Peas have also been cultivated to a greater extent, one-fourth more land being planted, viz.:—4,358 acres against 3,499 acres. The quantity of seed produced was 49,279 bushels, as compared with 36,381 bushels, an increase of 12,898 bushels; the average yield being 11 bushels per acre. This plant is stated to have an excellent effect on lands that have been exhausted by wheat; and the rapidly increasing cultivation, nearly five-fold in four years, attests its value as a subsidiary crop.

"Only 4,210 acres of oats were grown, as compared with 4,846 acres last season, or a decrease of 636 acres. The quantity was also deficient, the average yield being very low, only 14 bushels to the acre—producing a total of 59,213 bushels. This cereal is chiefly cultivated in the moister climate enjoyed in the southern portions of the Province.

"Potatoes were not planted to a greater extent than in the preceding season, whilst the produce has been slightly below the average yield, showing 47 cwt. to the acre, or one cwt. less. The total area dug was 2,684 acres, and the aggregate produce 6,335 tons—about one-half of our yearly requirements. Nevertheless the cultivation of this esculent has retrograded during the past five years, and at least thirty thousand pounds sterling per annum is sent to Victoria to make up the deficient supply.

"Orchards and gardens are returned as covering 6,327 acres, 2,684 being of the former, and 3,715 of the latter. In addition thereto, 6,063 acres are under vines; the number in bearing being 5,853,427, whilst 513,088 are yet unproductive. These figures show a slight decrease on previous statements. The vintage of 1867–8 to which the returns refer, produced 812,118 gallons, as compared with 863,584 gallons the year preceding. Taking the average of seasons, the annual production is over 800,000 gallons, or nearly five gallons per head of the population. About 140 gallons is the average production per acre.

"The aggregate area of land described as in fallow was 118,404 acres, or only 1,077 acres less than in the previous year. Under this head is included virgin soil broken up in anticipation of the ensuing seed-time.

"The live stock returns are of a favourable character, especially as regards cattle and sheep; the former showing an increase for the first time since 1863, and the latter maintaining the rapid rate of increase which distinguished the return of last year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

"The number of horses (exclusive of those in towns) amounted to 75,409, or 1,181 more than in the previous year. Since 1863 this description of stock has increased about one-third. With a profitable market at hand, the breeding of a superior stamp of horse-flesh upon agricultural holdings would add materially to our farmers' resources. The aggregate number exported during the past ten years is 4,925, or an average of 492 yearly. Since 1863, however, when 902 were sent away, the shipments have gradually declined.

"When it is remembered that during the last six years our herds of cattle have diminished one-half, it is satisfactory to notice that these returns show an increase, however small. The number given is 123,213, as compared with 122,200 last year, or an addition of 1,013 head. The fattening of stock on farms would also seem worthy the greater attention of agriculturists, seeing that the Adelaide meat market has for years been chiefly supplied from Queensland and New South Wales. The number of cattle crossing into South Australia, *viâ* the Darling, during the past four years has been 26,000, or an average of 6,500 head annually.

"Nearly five million sheep are now depastured within the Province, the increase during the past year having exceeded half a million. During the last three years the number has rapidly augmented. In 1867 there were 3,911,610; in 1868, 4,477,445; and in 1869, 4,987,024, showing an increase of 1,075,000, or more than one-fourth, in two years.

"Three-fourths of the aggregate number are depastured within counties, the remaining fourth only on runs held under the ordinary 14 years' leases. In the South-East 1,449,646 are kept within the boundaries of the proclaimed counties, or 150,000 more than are found on the whole of the pastoral districts outside of counties. In counties Grey and Robe there is one sheep for every three acres of land. The fencing of pastoral country has been very extensive, and has contributed greatly to the satisfactory increase shown in the number of flocks.

"It will be observed that the yield per acre has only been less on two occasions—and, seeing that this poor return immediately followed an almost total failure of the crops, the depressed state of the agricultural tenants cannot be wondered at. It will also be noted that two bad harvests have come together for the first time. Comparatively but few complaints were made of the existence of red rust—and the scourge 'take-all' was not more prevalent than hitherto; nevertheless, the absence of moisture, for the rainfall was below the average, was sufficient to affect the yield very materially. Important results have attended the experiment of sowing shrivelled grain, which was done to a large extent—seed wheat being, in many instances, beyond the reach of the small farmer—for it has been proved that the growth of the plant, and the quality and yield of grain from the inferior seed were perfectly satisfactory—an incalculable boon to those who had the courage to adopt it, and the means of greatly alleviating the disastrous effects of the previous harvest.

"More hay was grown than in 1867–8; probably, the fear of a return of red rust may, to some slight extent, have induced farmers to cut their wheat for hay. The increase, however, is only about one-tenth of the usual crop; the total area grown amounted to 106,644 acres, as compared with 97,432 acres last season—showing an increase of 9,212 acres. The average yield per acre was 21cwt., or one cwt. below that of 1867–8. The total quantity stacked was 113,617 tons, or 4,032 tons more than in the preceding year.

"The high prices ruling show that the present production of this description of fodder is quite insufficient, and must be detrimental to the proper keeping of stock. Two years ago a crop of 150,000 tons, or 25 per cent. more than the last, was taken into consumption at fair average rates."

Shipping.

Owing to the failure of the harvest the export of breadstuffs was so diminished, that the number and tonnage of vessels employed in 1868 was very greatly reduced.

During the year, 446 vessels of 136,051 tons entered at ports in South Australia, as compared with 555 vessels of 167,547 aggregate tonnage in 1867, a decrease of 109 vessels, and 31,496 tons. Fifty-two vessels arrived from Great Britain, of 33,499 tons, an increase of 12 ships, and of 8,051 tons. The chief decrease was of course in the Inter-Colonial trade, the arrivals from Victoria being only 161, as against 223, and from New South Wales only 135 as against 167, the tonnage being proportionately reduced

The following statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards from each country during the past three years:—

Ships Inwards.			Countries.	Tonnage.		
1866.	1867.	1868.		1866.	1867.	1868.
59	40	52	Great Britain	40,379	25,448	33,499
171	223	161	Victoria	40,969	56,457	44,079
178	167	135	New South Wales	58,796	53,337	33,672
46	37	42	Tasmania	5,692	4,682	5,552
5	10	1	Queensland	1,762	1,967	104
20	22	20	Western Australia	6,726	7,081	7,349
8	11	1	New Zealand	1,620	1,753	—
3	2	—	Cape of Good Hope	794	489	254
1	—	15	India and Singapore	793	—	—
15	17	—	Mauritius	3,381	4,567	3,492
—	1	—	Bourbon	—	283	—
—	5	1	Norway	—	2,759	464
1	—	—	Vancouver's Island	327	—	—
5	9	9	Sweden	2,816	4,431	4,724
2	2	1	Hamburg	518	842	428
7	4	3	United States	4,173	2,305	1,193
—	1	—	Batavia	—	280	—
3	4	5	China	693	866	1,241
524	555	446	Total inwards	169,439	167,547	136,051

All the above vessels, except 15, of 2,929 tons, entered with cargoes. The total number of the crews was 6,472, or 1,115 less than last year. In addition to the foregoing, 57 vessels, of 4,272 total tonnage and 308 men, entered at ports on the River Murray. During the previous season 65 had entered, with a total capacity of 5,954 tons.

In comparison with 1867, when 581 vessels, of 176,272 tons, left the Province, the departures last year, especially to Great Britain, show a considerable reduction, the wheat trade with England having ceased from the cause above mentioned. In 1868 only 457 ships, of 141,821 total tonnage, departed from these ports, showing a decrease of 124 vessels and 34,451 tons.

The subjoined return shows the number of vessels entered outwards and departing to each country during the past three years:—

Ships Outward.			Countries.	Tonnage.		
1866.	1867.	1868.		1866.	1867.	1868.
30	73	37	Great Britain	22,097	44,547	24,796
215	204	190	Victoria	50,184	46,924	45,885
133	150	127	New South Wales	49,655	46,654	43,381
13	15	15	Tasmania	1,365	2,017	1,847
28	43	8	New Zealand	6,211	8,026	1,305
22	34	22	Queensland	5,264	7,819	4,387
25	22	23	Western Australia	8,464	7,628	6,719
6	9	7	Mauritius	1,495	2,178	1,859
—	1	—	Singapore	—	216	—
12	3	6	India	8,554	1,682	2,855
1	14	7	Cape of Good Hope	183	3,692	1,521
1	2	7	Batavia	575	459	3,027
—	4	—	Rio Janeiro	—	1,194	—
15	5	8	Chili	9,808	2,784	4,239
1	—	—	United States	281	—	—
2	2	—	China	1,296	452	—
11	—	—	Guam	5,000	—	—
515	581	457	Total outwards	170,432	176,272	141,821

In 1866, 30 vessels sailed for Great Britain, 736 being the average tonnage; in 1867, 73 vessels, average tonnage 610; and in 1868, 37 ships, averaging 670 tons burthen. The total number of vessels registered as belonging to Port Adelaide is 126, of 14,753 register tonnage.

Railways.

To the failure of the crops must chiefly be attributed the serious falling off in the traffic returns of the Railways. The passenger traffic was of course also much affected. The total number of passengers travelling was only 373,261, as compared with 444,089

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

in 1867, or 70,828 decrease. The receipts amounting to 28,912*l.* as against 34,114*l.* The goods traffic had never been so small since the opening of the line—only 108,018 tons, producing 51,091*l.* revenue, as compared with 266,705 tons, producing 88,577*l.* receipts in the previous year. The following return shows the gross receipts and expenditure, and a detailed statement of traffic for the past three years :—

GROSS RECEIPTS.

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1866.	1867.	1868.
				£	£	£
Number of Passengers	405,502	444,089	373,261	—	—	—
Passenger Receipts	—	—	—	36,183	34,114	28,912
Tons of Goods	208,984	266,705	108,018	—	—	—
Goods Receipts	—	—	—	75,247	88,577	51,071
Other Receipts	—	—	—	2,701	2,892	2,997
Total Receipts	—	—	—	£114,131	125,583	82,980

GROSS EXPENDITURE.

	1866.	1867.	1868.
	£	£	£
Management	1,735	2,050	1,782
Locomotive Department	16,150	19,542	17,129
Maintenance of line	24,161	31,118	32,271
Other working expenses (including goods agency)	61,923	66,615	45,100
Total expenditure	£103,979	119,325	96,283

Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that the receipts were 13,303*l.* below the working expenses, this being the first year in which such has been the case. The total receipts were 82,980*l.*, and the expenditure 96,283*l.* In 1867, the former amounted to 125,583, and the latter to 119,325*l.* With the exception of the item "goods agency," the working expenses could not be greatly reduced, as the train mileage run was only 14,796 less (a reduction partly consequent upon the opening of the Loop Line), being 149,683 as against 164,479 in 1867, and 128,957 miles in 1866, although the diminution in the traffic was so great. 32,271*l.* were expended in the maintenance (or rather reconstruction) of permanent way, as against 31,118*l.* last year.

Main Roads.

The Central Board of Main Roads constructed, during the year 1868, 78 miles of new macadamised road, making a total length of main lines completed to be 574 miles, of which 424 miles have been formed during the last ten years. In 1867, 79 miles were constructed.

The expenditure of the Board for the year in construction and maintenance of existing lines was 129,242*l.*, as compared with 175,773*l.* in the previous twelve months. The large sum of 983,137*l.* sterling, has been expended under their supervision during the past ten years; whilst the Local Boards, Municipalities, and District Councils have defrayed out of local rates and grants from the Public Treasury, almost an equal amount upon the improvement of this means of internal communication.

Postal Communication.

The extension of the Postal Service effected in 1867, although rendering much greater facilities than had previously existed, has not induced any rapid increase in postal business, whilst the service, from being self-supporting, has become a burden on the State to the amount, last year, of 11,887*l.*

Subjoined is a statement of the number of letters and newspapers carried, and of the income and expenditure of the department :—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
Number of letters	2,703,105	2,804,418	2,850,926
Number of newspapers	1,968,120	1,924,760	2,086,799
Distance travelled by mails	809,160	1,075,538	1,093,628
	£	£	£
Income	27,987	28,495	28,243
Expenditure	27,062	37,753	40,130

As compared with 1866, the number of miles travelled by mails is as 1,093,628 to 809,160. The length of the mail routes is now 4,326 as against 3,797 miles. The number of post offices has increased from 226 to 254, and of persons employed from 299 to 343. The receipts have augmented from 27,987*l.* to 28,243*l.*, or by 256*l.* only, whilst the expenses have increased by 13,068*l.*, or from 27,062*l.* to 40,130*l.* The number of letters carried has increased from 2,703,105 to 2,850,926, and the newspapers from 1,968,120 to 2,086,799. There is no doubt the general depression in trade during the year under review (1868) had a serious effect upon the receipts of this department, and prevented the expansion probably anticipated.

Telegraphs.

There are now 65 Telegraph Stations open, one more than in 1867. The length of line erected is 1,113 miles, and of wire 1,642 miles. The total number of messages delivered was 110,400 or 11,738 less than in the previous year. The total receipts amounted to 11,223*l.* as compared with 12,673*l.*, or 1,450*l.* less. This diminution was chiefly owing to the depression in trade caused by the failure of the harvest, and affected principally the returns from the North and Inter-Colonial lines.

Conclusion.

The usual statistical review of the progress of South Australia, since its foundation, closes this volume, and affords a means of ascertaining without trouble a general idea of the social and material development of the community from year to year.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. BOOTHBY,

Under Secretary and Government Statist.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, from the Year 1859 to 1868.

Year.	Population.	Number of Inhabitants in City of Adelaide.	Number of Inhabitants in Country Districts.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Convictions in Supreme Court.	Flour Mills	Lands sold in each year.	No. of Acres under cultivation.	Live Stock.		
											Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep and Lambs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.
1859	122,735	—	—	5,738	1,045	1,923	93	75	188,065	361,884	40,471	—	—
1860	*124,112	—	—	5,568	1,031	2,336	78	78	129,262	428,816	49,399	278,265	2,824,811
1861	*126,830	18,303	108,527	5,551	1,158	1,962	62	76	147,354	486,667	52,597	265,434	3,038,356
1862	135,329	—	—	6,075	1,189	1,918	64	77	129,910	494,511	56,251	258,342	3,431,000
1863	140,416	—	—	5,966	1,152	2,221	86	77	159,791	555,968	59,008	226,166	3,891,642
1864	147,341	—	—	6,208	1,291	2,565	70	75	224,171	587,775	62,899	204,892	4,106,230
1865	156,605	—	—	6,672	1,436	2,174	134	80	316,477	660,569	73,993	158,057	3,779,308
1866	*163,452	23,229	140,223	6,782	1,299	2,753	107	77	214,429	739,714	70,829	123,820	3,911,610
1867	172,860	—	—	7,041	1,379	2,939	126	76	144,020	810,734	74,228	122,200	4,477,445
‡1868	176,298	—	—	7,247	1,286	2,516	128	82	†199,693	808,234	75,409	123,213	4,987,024

Year.	Shipping.				Export of Produce of the Country.					Value of			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Minerals and Metals.	Wool.		Total Exports of Produce (including Sundries).	Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Revenue.§	Expenditure.§
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.			Quantity.	Value.					
					£	£	lbs.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1859	402	111,436	390	104,692	554,265	411,018	9,496,715	484,977	1,502,165	1,655,876	1,507,494	511,927	620,756
1860	324	100,681	338	108,355	499,102	446,537	11,731,371	573,368	1,576,326	1,783,716	1,639,591	438,827	492,656
1861	401	103,196	387	96,135	712 789	452,172	13,164,391	623,007	1,838,639	2,032,311	1,976,018	558,586	482,951
1862	374	105,231	392	111,290	633,241	547,619	13,229,009	635,270	1,920,487	2,145,796	1,820,656	548,709	579,381
1863	440	127,667	446	127,826	747,116	542,393	15,566,787	715,935	2,095,356	2,358,817	2,028,279	631,700	635,205
1864	617	160,095	619	161,293	1,464,593	691,624	16,092,095	775,656	3,015,537	3,305,545	2,412,931	775,837	626,688
1865	619	183,102	601	174,188	1,228,480	620,112	16,269,890	821,482	2,754,657	3,129,846	2,927,596	1,089,128	790,504
1866	524	169,439	515	170,432	645,401	824,501	19,739,523	990,173	2,539,723	2,858,737	2,835,142	949,774	1,064,323
1867	555	167,547	581	176,272	1,037,085	753,413	19,350,195	919,532	2,776,095	3,164,622	2,506,394	716,294	1,003,271
1868	446	136,051	457	141,821	568,491	624,022	28,899,190	1,305,280	2,603,826	2,819,300	2,238,510	716,004	852,689

* Excepting as regards the years marked thus (*), in which the Census was taken, the number given is the population as estimated at the close of each year.

† Total extent of land alienated, 3,769,897 acres.

‡ Almost total failure of the harvest 1867–8, owing to red rust.

§ Land Fund included since 1849.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from ACTING-GOVERNOR BRUCE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.
(No 63.)

MY LORD, Government House, Perth, March 30, 1868.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1868, forwarded to me by the Colonial Secretary with the accompanying letter.

2. The statistical information is for the most part of a satisfactory character, and manifests the steady progress of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. BRUCE, Acting-Governor.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, March 23, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for transmission to England, the Blue Book for the year 1868.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The actual revenue received during 1868, was 99,495*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, being in excess of that estimated by 5,507*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, and of that received during the previous year by 9,065*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*

The actual expenditure during the same period was 89,726*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, being 4,261*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* less than that estimated, although in excess of that expended in 1867 by 224*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.*

The balance therefore available for the public service has been considerably increased during the past year, and there was in the Public Treasury on the 31st December, 1868, nearly 20,000*l.*, and there is no public debt whatever.

3. *Imperial Expenditure.*

The Imperial expenditure during 1868 amounted to 116,668*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, nearly 2,000*l.* more than in 1867. This excess arose from the expenses connected with two companies of the Line sent for the protection of the colonists, but lately withdrawn. The cessation of transportation and the consequent reduction of convict staff as the number of prisoners on hand decreases, must cause this expenditure from hence very materially to decrease.

4. *Public Works.*

The expenditure on public works during the year was 15,843*l.*, about 2,000 more than in 1867, and this sum with convict labour has kept the public buildings and roads in fair order. No new work of any importance has been undertaken during 1868, with the exception of some public offices at Albany, urgently required.

The Town Hall at Perth approaches completion, and the steam-dredge imported in July last is being put together.

5. *Legislation.*

The legislation of the year requires little remark; no bills of any importance having been passed. The first session of the amended Legislative Council took place in July; great zeal was displayed by the new members, and the various questions brought under consideration were debated with more than the usual animation.

The question of a still greater alteration in the constitution of the Legislative Council, sought by a large and influential portion of the inhabitants, will very shortly be brought under notice.

6. *Population.*

The increase of population during the year may be estimated at about one thousand; of this number, one-third at the least has left the Colony since the 31st December.

The question of labour still greatly occupies public attention. The class of immigrants received is as a rule of a very low order, and by no means superior to the only other source available in the Colony, that of prisoners liberated on ticket-of-leave. Propositions from the Legislative Council are now under consideration in England, and it is necessary for the well-being and progress of the Colony that a better class, and an increased supply of good labour, should be introduced.

Average farm-labourers and female servants need never be out of employment, and if of steady habits, may ensure not only good wages but in time a competence.

7. *Savings' Banks.*

I am glad to be able again to report favourably of the working of the Post Office Savings' Bank; the funds invested on mortgage fully meet the cost of interest to depositors, and thus the Banks are self-supporting.

8. *Pauperism.*

I regret to report the increase of pauperism, and I can see no ground of hope for any diminution under this head; so long as the Colony is called on to support ex-convicts, the charge for paupers must increase. These men, though apparently in average health when first discharged from prison, from the forced steadiness of life they have been there compelled to observe, in many instances return to dissipated habits; their constitutions damaged before they arrived in the Colony, soon break down altogether, and they become a burden on the Colony. There are at the present time some thirty ex-convicts permanent inmates of the Colonial Poor House, and the number must annually increase.

Relief in one shape or another is given to a daily average of two hundred persons, none of whom are in a position to maintain themselves.

9. *Education.*

The average number of scholars in attendance at the Government schools during the year 1868, was about 1,450; the number of schools was 49. This shows a slight increase over 1867. New schools are opened as small settlements spring up, and in the towns of Perth and Fremantle there are schools of a higher class opened for the attendance of children requiring a superior education to that professedly given at the Government schools.

A collegiate school has been established for some years, under the auspices of the Lord Bishop of Perth and a body of governors, but the support it has met with hitherto has not been of a very encouraging nature.

10. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports in 1868 amounted to 225,614*l.*, and the exports to 192,636*l.* In each case there is an increase of nearly 20,000*l.* over the previous year.

Ten years since the imports were 125,000*l.*, and the exports under 100,000*l.* The increase has been steady and gradual since that time.

There is no apparent prospect of a decrease under either head.

11. *Cultivation.*

Though I am able to report an increased area under cultivation and a larger sale of land during the past year, I regret to state that the agricultural interest has sustained a severe shock from the spread of the disease known as "red rust," in various parts of the Colony. In the Victoria District alone, where 13,895 acres were cropped with wheat, the average yield has been three-quarters of a bushel to the acre. In many instances farmers who had from 100 to 200 acres under crop realized nothing.

The majority of the farmers in the Victoria District, are tenants holding tillage leases under the Crown, dependent on their harvest for the support of themselves and families; they would be now, but for the forbearance of the Government, mere paupers. Payment of their rents was remitted and relief afforded to them till their employment on organized public works could be arranged. The Government has also laid in a large stock of seed corn, which will be distributed under agreement to be repaid after the harvest of the current year.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The "red rust" appears in nearly all parts of the Colony, but the destruction of crop, though great in many parts, has not resulted in so total a failure as in the Victoria District.

The returns rendered of the average produce per acre, are, I am convinced, far in excess of what was harvested, and I am endeavouring to collect more reliable data in regard to the actual yield of wheat.

The returns show an increase of stock of all descriptions, and no disease has shown itself among the cattle. The Scab in Sheep Ordinance is working very satisfactorily, and the disease is fast disappearing.

12. *Mines.*

It is unsatisfactory to observe that so few of the rich copper and lead mines are being worked.

The quantity of ore, of a very high quality, obtainable at reasonable cost is unlimited, but the supply of labour, coupled with the means of getting the ore to the port of shipment, has hitherto been the drawback to the increase of this great resource. Capital alone can bring these mines into full operation, and that is at present wanting.

The question of the presence of gold in Western Australia, has, of late, attracted considerable attention.

Practical and experienced men from the gold fields in the Eastern Colonies, have expressed their belief that gold does exist, and that time and labour are alone necessary to reveal it. The Government has re-issued a notice, offering a reward of 5,000*l.* for the discovery of a workable gold-field, and several prospecting parties have been out, but as yet without success.

Is is difficult to realize that with every indication of auriferous soil, and this in various parts of the Colony, and over a great extent of country, gold should not be found, and yet be in every other Australian Colony.

13. *Crime.*

The criminal returns call for no special remark. The absence of any crimes of an outrageous or extraordinary character, cannot but be matter of satisfaction in a convict Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

To the Officer
Administering the Government.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 145.)

MY LORD, Government House, Auckland, New Zealand, November 14, 1869.

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 116, of the 11th September, ult., I have now the honour to transmit six copies of the annual Blue Book of New Zealand, containing the statistics for 1868.

2. Prefixed is the report of the Registrar-General, which is recommended for publication in the Colonial Blue Book annually presented to the Imperial Parliament, in preference to the less complete report transmitted with my above-mentioned Despatch, No. 116. It is so full, and yet so concise, that it seems superfluous to add any remarks to it.

3. The condition of New Zealand cannot be regarded as, on the whole, otherwise than very satisfactory and promising, if the general commercial depression which has prevailed throughout most parts of the world during the last three years, and the effects of the long-continued Native disturbances in the North Island, are taken into account. The returns forwarded herewith abundantly prove the great value of this Colony to the British Empire.

4. The reasons which have hitherto caused delay in the publication of the annual statistical volume were explained in the Registrar-General's report prefixed to the statistics for 1867, and forwarded with my Despatch No. 39, of the 25th March, ult. It

will be seen that the volume has been published on this occasion at a much earlier period than for some years past.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

STATISTICS OF NEW ZEALAND, 1868.

To the Honourable WILLIAM GISBORNE, Colonial Secretary, &c.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
October 18, 1869.

SIR,

IN order to guard against possible misapprehension respecting the Statistical Volume for 1868, which I have the honour to present herewith, it is proper to state at the outset that a very considerable portion of its contents is substantially a re-issue of information already published, and not only circulated to some extent in New Zealand, but also transmitted to the Australian Colonies and the United Kingdom. During the late Session of the General Assembly—besides an earlier presentation of the tables of imports and exports in detail—a series of tables in anticipation of the statistical volume was presented, which included no less than 52 out of the 71 tables contained in this volume. I wished very much—and at one time I hoped—to have the completed "Statistics for 1868" ready for circulation sufficiently early to obviate the necessity of issuing any portions "in anticipation;" but, as in former years, it was found impossible to obtain all the necesssary returns on some of the most indispensable subjects during the first quarter of the year, when the printing could have been expeditiously done; the result being that, when they could be prepared for the press, the demands on the resources of the Government printing-office, in connection with the session of the General Assembly, were so numerous and urgent as to make the performance of the work of printing these tables comparatively slow at the best, and occasionally to cause a temporary suspension of it altogether.

The "Report," which from year to year I have prepared—as introducing, occasionally commenting on, and generally summarizing the contents of the volume—had previously been always reserved until the publication of the volume in its completed form. As, however, there is reason to believe that this report is read by many who do not, except with regard to some particular matter which may specially interest them, devote much attention to the details shown in the tables, I prepared for the earlier issue the portions of the Annual Report relating to the various branches of information which were comprehended in it. The following Report will therefore be found, to the same extent as the tables, a re-issue, with very little alteration of that already presented. The necessary additions are, however, made, and the whole prepared for publication in the more permanent shape, and with the reference to wider circulation in this and other countries, which pertain to the completed volume.

Throughout the Report, notes in the margin will direct to the several tables* in which may be found, more fully and minutely, the information,—leading points of which are presented here in a condensed form.

Population.

The population of the Colony at the end of the year 1868 has necessarily been calculated on the basis of the last census, which was taken for the night of the 19th of December, 1867. The estimate has been arrived at in the usual way, by adding to the numbers then ascertained the excess of births over deaths, and of immigration over emigration. According to the census enumeration, the population of New Zealand (exclusive of the military and their families, and of the aboriginal Natives) was 218,668, —viz., 131,929 males, and 86,739 females. The increase for the twelve days between the census and the close of the year is estimated as 364—viz. 156 males and 208 females; making the estimated population on the 31st of December, 1867, amount to 219,032 persons, viz., 132,085 males, and 86,947 females. During the year 1868, the excess of births over deaths—the births and deaths connected with the military (which are included in Table No. IV.) being deducted—was 6,726, and the excess of immigration over emigration 860, making a total addition of 7,586 persons. Thus, the total estimated population on the 31st of December, 1868, according to the process shown in Table No. I., was 226,618, viz., 134,621 males, and 91,997 females. The increase in 1868 was centesimally 1·91 per cent. on males; 5·80 per cent. on females; and 3·46 per cent. on the whole population.

* These Tables are not reprinted.

NEW ZEALAND.

The proportions in which this progress was distributed through the several quarters of the year are compendiously exhibited in the following summary:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
FIRST QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during first quarter	684	798	1,482
Increase (in number of females) from excess of immigration over emigration during first quarter	—	397	397
Decrease (in number of males) from excess of emigration over immigration during first quarter	1,215	—	1,215
Net increase or decrease during first quarter	Decr. 531	Incr. 1,195	Incr. 664
SECOND QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during second quarter	725	861	1,586
Increase (in number of females) from excess of immigration over emigration during second quarter	—	126	126
Decrease (in number of males) from excess of emigration over immigration during second quarter	191	—	191
Net increase during six months	3	2,182	2,185
THIRD QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during third quarter	896	992	1,888
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during third quarter	36	313	349
Increase during nine months	935	3,487	4,422
FOURTH QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during fourth quarter	833	937	1,770
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during fourth quarter	768	626	1,394
Total increase during 1868	2,536	5,050	7,586
Population as enumerated in the Census of 20th December, 1867 (adding 364, viz., males 156, females 208, the estimated increase between the 19th and 31st December, 1867)	132,085	86,947	219,032
Estimated total population on 31st December, 1868	134,621	91,997	226,618

It is only for the years in which the triennial census is taken that any reliable information can be given as to the distribution of the population in the several provinces or other divisions of the Colony. The migration from one part of New Zealand to another, even by water communication, cannot be ascertained with any approximation to accuracy, and there are no means whatever of ascertaining the amount of overland migration. Instead, therefore, of attempting an estimate which would be in a great measure conjectural, and consequently of little value, if not absolutely misleading, I have appended to the estimate of population for the Colony in December, 1868, the numbers in the several provinces (and the county of Westland) as shown by the census enumeration of December, 1867. According to these figures, the Northern Island (comprising the provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay), then contained 79,913 persons, or 36·58 *per cent.*; and the Middle Island (comprising the provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland, and the county of Westland) 138,571, or 63·42 *per cent.* of the whole population of the Colony. It is probable, or indeed certain, that a census now would show a difference in these proportions from various causes, of which the large accession of numbers to the province of Auckland consequent on the development of the Thames gold fields is the principal; but the figures must remain for the present as the latest actually ascertained numbers. In connection with the statements as to population generally, I would, however, repeat here from my report on the census of 1867, that "there can be no doubt that the actual "numbers exceeded the totals given for the Colony, as besides individual omissions "through the negligence of sub-enumerators, or from other causes, there are almost "insuperable difficulties in obtaining a correct enumeration of the gold-digging population. "Had such an enumeration been practicable, the total would almost certainly have been "many hundreds or even several thousands, more."

Immigration and Emigration.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in 1868 amounted to 8,723 persons, of whom 6,045 were males, and 2,678 females. Of the males, 5,425 were adults, and 620 children; of the females, 2,211 were adults, and 467 children.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony amounted to 7,863 persons, of whom 6,647 were males, and 1,216 females. Of the males, 6,233 were adults, and 414 children; of the females, 925 were adults, and 291 children.

The net excess of immigration over emigration in 1868 was 860, being 3,999 less than the net excess in 1867, and, as will be seen on reference to the comparative table of immigration and emigration, No. III., less than in any of the preceeding years since 1853 included in that table, and greatly less than the average for the 15 years—1853 to 1867 inclusive—which amounted to 9,274.

Taking the divisions of the Colony separately, the excesses of immigration over emigrationwere,—in the Province of Auckland, 287; in the Province of Wellington, 348; in the Province of Hawke's Bay, 22; in the Province of Nelson, 162; in the Province of Marlborough, 1; in the Province of Canterbury, 716; in the Province of Otago, 1,432; and in the Province of Southland, 171. On the other hand, the excesses of emigration over immigration were,—in the Province of Taranaki, 5; and in the County of Westland, 2,274.

The immigration and emigration in 1868, classified according to the countries from which the immigrants arrived, and to which the emigrants went, are shown in the following figures:—

Immigration.				Emigration.			
Countries.	M.	F.	Total.	Countries.	M.	F.	Total.
United Kingdom - -	1,742	1,280	3,022	United Kingdom - -	302	198	500
Australian Colonies -	3,873	1,206	5,079	Australian Colonies -	5,854	851	6,705
Other British Ports -	36	24	60	Other British Ports -	11	1	12
Foreign States - -	394	168	562	Foreign States - -	480	166	646

The excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, is thus shown to have been,—United Kingdom, 2,522; and other British Ports (not in the Australian Colonies), 48. But as respects the Australian Colonies and Foreign States, the emigration exceeded the immigration by 1,710 persons,—viz., Australian Colonies, 1,626, and Foreign Ports, 84.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Births. The total number of Births registered in New Zealand during the year 1868 was 9,391,—viz., 4,766 males, and 4,625 females. The total in 1867 was 8,918,—viz., 4,595 males, and 4,323 females. The increase in 1868 was therefore 473,—viz., 171 males, and 302 females. The increase in 1867, as compared with 1866, was 452,—viz., 311 males, and 141 females. Taking the two years together, the apparent disproportion between the numbers of the sexes, which either year separately might suggest seems to be adjusted, the total increase of 925 in 1867 and 1868 being made up of 482 males, and 443 females. It will be remembered that the figures show, not the births which have actally occurred, but the births which have been *registered* within the periods specified.

Deaths. The total number of deaths registered in 1868 was 2,662,—viz., 1,631 males, and 1,031 females. The total in 1867 was 2,702,—viz., 1,621 males, and 1,081 females. There appears, therefore, an increase in 1868 of 10 males, but a decrease of 50 females, making a net decrease of 40 in the total number of deaths in 1868 as compared with 1867.

Of the deaths in 1868, 899 (viz., 488 males, and 411 females) were under one year of age: 186 (viz., 105 males, and 81 females) one and under two years;—and 172 (viz. 90 males, and 82 females) two and under five years;—making a total of 1,257 (viz., 683 males, and 574 females), or 47·22 *per cent.* of the whole, under five years.

The general total of deaths includes 153 (viz., 141 males, and 12 females), or 5·74 *per cent.* of the whole, from drowning, and 169 (viz., 139 males, and 30 females), or 6·34 *per cent.* of the whole, from various other external causes; making a total of 322 (viz., 280 males and 42 females) from such causes, being 12·09 per cent. of the deaths during the year.

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The proportions of births and deaths to every thousand persons living in each of the last eight years are shown approximately in the following table:—

Year.	Estimated Population at Middle of Year.	Births.		Deaths.	
		Number Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.	Number Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.
1861 - - -	89,323	3,441	38·52	1,109	12·41
1862 - -	112,416	4,064	36·15	1,231	10·95
1863 - - -	144,930	5,115	35·29	1,983	13·68
1864 - -	168,833	6,501	38·50	2,921	17·30
1865 - - -	182,113	7,490	41·12	2,757	15·13
1866 - -	197,360	8,466	42·89	2,540	12·86
1867 - - -	211,391	8,918	42·18	2,702	12·78
1868 - -	222,825	9,391	42·14	2,662	11·94

These figures show, for 1868, one birth to every 23, and one death to every 83 persons living. The average for the eight years is one birth to every 25, and one death to every 76 persons.

The excess of births over deaths in 1868 was 6,729,—viz., 3,135 males, and 3,594 females. The total excess of registered births over registered deaths in the fourteen years included in these tables, was 45,006,—viz., 21,056 males, and 23,950 females.

Marriages.

The total number of marriages in New Zealand in 1868 was 2,085, being 35 more than in 1867. Of these, 1,929 were by ministers of religion, and 156 by registrars. The respective numbers solemnized by ministers of the several religious bodies were as follow:—United Church of England and Ireland, 518; Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland, and Presbyterian Congregations, 737; Roman Catholic Church, 332; Wesleyan Methodists, 205; Congregational Independents, 49; Baptists, 44; Primitive Methodists, 33; Lutheran Church, 1; Hebrew Congregations, 3; and United Methodist Free Churches, 9.

The tables show the number of marriages in the respective provinces in each year since "The Marriage Act, 1854," came into operation, and the respective numbers solemnized by officiating ministers and by registrars in each year within that period.

Trade and Interchange.

Six tables are occupied by information relating to shipping.

The first two show the numbers, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered inwards, and cleared outwards, at the several ports of New Zealand during the year 1868. The total *inwards* was 851 vessels, of 277,105 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1867, of 93 in the number of vessels, and of 32,463 in the tonnage. The total *outwards* was 873 vessels, of 287,710 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1867, of 77 in the number of vessels, and of 20,459 in the tonnage.

The next two tables show vessels, tonnage, and crews, classified according to "countries "whence arrived," and "countries for which cleared." Of the total of 851 vessels *inwards*, 60, of 45,557 tonnage arrived from the United Kingdom; 689, of 197,782 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 102, of 33,766 tonnage, from Foreign countries (including the Southern Whale Fisheries). Of the total of 873 vessels *outwards*, 38, of 27,384 tonnage, cleared for the United Kingdom; 710, of 219,149 tonnage, for the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 125, of 41,177 tonnage for Foreign countries (including the Southern Whale Fisheries).

The two following tables show the "nationality" of the vessels, inwards and outwards. Of the total 851 *inwards*, 209, of 121,096 tonnage, were British; 591, of 137,831 tonnage, Colonial; 27, of 10,164 tonnage, American; 11, of 3,092 tonnage, French; 4, of 844 tonnage, German; 4, of 2,033 tonnage, Norwegian; 2, of 656 tonnage, Danish; 1, of 176 tonnage, Venezeulan; 1, of 954 tonnage, Swedish; and 1, of 259 tonnage, Chilian. Of the total 873 *outwards*, 206, of 120,810 tonnage, were British; 618, of 147,763 tonnage, Colonial; 30, of 11,408 tonnage, American; 9, of 2,903 tonnage, French; 4, of 2,157 tonnage, Norwegian; 2, of 1,641 tonnage, Swedish; 2, of 372 tonnage, German; and 2, of 656 tonnage, Dutch.

Registered vessels.

The *registered vessels* belonging to ports in New Zealand may be conveniently noticed here, although the table relating to them is placed in a subsequent part of the volume. According to the table (which is now made up in an enlarged and improved form) there were in December, 1867, 365 vessels, of 23,219 tonnage. During the year 1868, 52 vessels, of 3,993 tonnage, were struck off the books (for reasons specified in the table),

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and 59 vessels, of 5,313 tonnage, were added. The general total in December, 1868, accordingly was, 372 vessels, of 24,539 tonnage, being a net increase for the year of 7 in the number of vessels, and 1,320 in the tonnage. Of the total, 171 vessels, of 9,453 tonnage, belonged to the port of Auckland; 23, of 1,866 tonnage, to the port of Wellington; 6, of 318 tonnage, to the Port of Napier; 24, of 1,144 tonnage, to the port of Nelson; 67, of 4,475 tonnage, to the port of Lyttleton; 71, of 7,003 tonnage, to the port of Dunedin; and 10, of 280 tonnage, to the port of Invercargill.

Imports and exports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1868 was 4,985,748*l.*, against 5,344,607*l.* in 1867, being a decrease of 358,859*l.*, or 7·19 per cent.

Imports. Total value in 1868 as compared with 1867.

The following figures show the increase or decrease in each of the provinces in 1868, as compared with 1867:—

		£	
Auckland - - -	increase	3,107, or 0·38	per cent.
Taranaki - -	decrease	14,229, or 44·68	„
Wellington - - -	increase	61,088, or 10·88	„
Hawke's Bay - -	decrease	538, or 0·69	„
Nelson - - -	increase	3,290, or 0·73	„
Marlborough - -	decrease	1,541, or 9·34	„
Canterbury (and County of Westland)- - -	decrease	411,442, or 25·38	„
Otago - - -	increase	42,373, or 2·71	„
Southland - - -	decrease	40,755, or 21·52	„

A comparison of the value of imports in 1867 and 1868, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

	1867.	1868.		
	£	£		£
United Kingdom - -	2,779,463	2,299,689	Decrease	479,774
British Colonies - -	2,332,744	2,351,685	Increase	18,941
Foreign States - -	232,400	334,374	Increase	101,974
Totals - -	£5,344,607	4,985,748	Decrease	358,859

Exports. Total value in 1868 as compared with 1867.

The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1868 was 4,429,198*l.*, against 4,644,678*l.* in 1867, being a decrease in 1868 of 215,480*l.*, or 4·86 per cent. Excluding the value of imported goods re-exported from the Colony, the total value of exports of New Zealand produce and manufactures in 1868 amounted to 4,268,762*l.*, against 4,479,464*l.* in 1867, being a decrease of 210,702*l.*, or 4·70 per cent.

The two most important exports of the Colony—gold and wool—demand more particular notice here.

Gold.

The total value of gold exported from New Zealand in 1868 amounted to 2,504,326*l.*, produced by the several gold fields in the following proportions:—Auckland, 168,874*l.*; Nelson (including Westland North), 833,180*l.*; Marlborough, 1,616*l.*; County of Westland, 814,060*l.*; Otago, 652,356*l.*; and Southland, 34,240*l.*

The total value of the gold exported in 1867 was 2,700,275*l.* There appears, therefore, a net decrease in 1868 amounting to 195,949*l.* The falling-off in amount occurred in Nelson, Marlborough, Westland (South), and Southland; while in Auckland and Otago there was an increase. The following figures show the exact amount of increase or decrease in each case:—

VALUE of GOLD Exported in 1867 and in 1868 respectively.

	1867.	1868.	Whether Increase or Decrease.	Amount of Increase or Decrease.
	£	£		£
Produce of the Gold Fields in the Province of Auckland -	20,700	168,874	Increase	148,174
Ditto „ Marlborough	1,978	1,616	Decrease	362
Ditto „ Nelson -	894,728	833,180	Decrease	61,548
Ditto (1867) „ Canterbury | (1868) County of Westland /	1,159,326	814,060	Decrease	345,266
Ditto Province of Otago -	587,426	652,356	Increase	64,930
Ditto „ Southland -	36,117	34,240	Decrease	1,877
	2,700,275	2,504,326	Decrease	195,949

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Wool.

The total value of the gold exported from New Zealand up to the 31st December, 1868, amounted to 17,044,899*l.*

The total quantity of wool exported in 1868 was 28,875,163 lbs. against 27,152,966 lbs. in 1867, being an increase of 1,722,197 lbs. But the total value stated for 1868 was 1,516,548, against 1,580,608 in 1867, showing a decrease of 64,000, or 4·05 per cent.

The information relating to imports and exports which has been thus briefly summarized will be found given in detail in the series of tables referred to in the margin. Tables XIV. and XV. show the total value of imports and exports respectively at the several ports of New Zealand in 1868. Tables XVI. and XVII. exhibit, in a condensed form, the total value of imports and exports for the Colony for each year from 1853 to 1868 inclusive, distinguishing the Provinces, and the respective amounts of imports from, or exports to, the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and Foreign States. Tables XVIII. and XIX, are in a greatly enlarged and improved form, as compared with the tables having those numbers in the previous statistical volumes. The plan on which the present tables are constructed may be best explained by introducing here a memorandum by Mr. Seed, Secretary and Inspector of Customs (on whose suggestion and under whose supervision they have been prepared as they now appear), which was prefixed to copies of them which, some weeks since, were presented to both Houses of the General Assembly for the immediate use of the Members :—

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING CUSTOMS TRADE RETURNS.

The accompanying return of general imports for 1868 differs from those of previous years, as the latter only showed the quantity and value of the various articles imported. The return as now prepared bears a closer resemblance to the table of general imports issued by the statistical department of the Board of Trade, and to those published in the several Australian Colonies. It shows, in addition to the total quantity and value of imports, the quantity of each article entered for home consumption direct from the importing ship, the quantity warehoused, and the quantity delivered from the warehouse; thus exhibiting the annual consumption of each article, as nearly as this can be ascertained. It shows further the countries whence the several articles are imported. In like manner the return of exports shows the destination of the various goods exported; so that from a review of these two returns, an accurate judgment can be formed of the nature and extent of the interchange which is carried on between New Zealand and other countries.

In order to illustrate clearly the arrangement adopted in the accompanying return, it is only neeessary to furnish the following particulars respecting one of the items. *Apparel and slops*, for instance, are entered thus :—

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Quantities.				Total Value.
	Imported.			Entered for Home Consumption.	
	In British Vessels.	In Foreign Vessels.	Total.		
Apparel and Slops :					£
United Kingdom - -	1,999 packages -	36 packages	2,035 packages -	—	72,475
New South Wales - -	103 „ -	—	103 „ -	—	2,252
Victoria - - -	554 „ -	—	554 „ -	—	23,840
United States of America	1 „ -	—	1 „ -	—	6
Panama - - - -	20 „ -	—	20 „ -		199
	2,677 packages -	36 packages	2,713 packages -	—	—
Warehoused :					
United Kingdom - -	17 cases, 402 pkgs.	32 packages	17 cases, 434 pkgs.	—	18,080
Victoria - - - -	6 „	—	6 „	—	275
United States of America	2 „	—	2 „	—	33
Panama - - -	15 „	—	15 „	—	281
Ex Warehouse :					
United Kingdom - -	—	—	—	419 packages	—
New South Wales - -	—	—	—	10 „	—
Victoria - - -	—	—	—	77 „	—
Total - - -	17 cases, 425 pkgs.	32 packages	17 cases, 457 pkgs.	506 packages	117,441

That is to say, 2,713 packages were entered direct from the importing ships, and paid duty on prime entry; 17 cases and 457 packages were bonded from the importing ships; 506 packages were delivered out of bond, on payment of duty, for home consumption; and the total value imported during the year was 117,441*l.*

With regard to exports, however, in addition to the details thus presented for the Colony, there is a Table (XIX.A, similar to that numbered XIX. in former volumes),

which shows the quantity and value of the various articles exported from each of the ports in New Zealand during the year 1868.

The ten following Tables (XX. to XXIX.) contain summaries showing compendiously the totals of various articles of export in 1868, compared with previous years. Separate tables of this description are appropriated to gold, grain, Kauri gum, oil, potatoes, timber, wool and hides, and sheepskins.

Revenue of the Colony.

Customs revenue.

The customs revenue in 1868 amounted to 788,829*l.*, against 843,997*l.* (the corrected amount) in 1867, being a decrease of 55,168*l.*, or 6·53 per cent.

The following figures show the comparative amounts realized by this branch of the revenue during the nine years—1860 to 1868 inclusive:—

	£		£	
1860 - -	189,168	being an increase of	20,852, or 12·38	per cent.
1861 - -	260,863	„ „	71,695, or 37·90	„
1862 - -	399,436	„ „	138,573, or 53·12	„
1863 - -	592,050	„ „	192,614, or 48·22	„
1864 - -	592,346	„ „	296, or 0·05	„
1865 - -	730,008	„ „	137,662, or 23·24	„
1866 - -	844,267	„ „	114,259, or 15·65	„
1867 - -	843,997	being a decrease of	270, or 0·03	„
1868 - -	788,829	„ „	55,168, or 6·53	„

Ordinary revenue.

The total ordinary revenue in 1868 amounted to 1,195,512*l.*, against 1,225,584*l.* in 1867, being a decrease of 30,072*l.*, or 2·45 per cent.

Territorial revenue.

The total territorial revenue in 1868 amounted to 425,323*l.*, against 561,730*l.* in 1867, being a decrease of 136,407*l.*, or 24·28 per cent.

[It is to be understood that the total given as territorial revenue in 1868 includes 79,653*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* duty on gold exported, and 50,809*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* for miners' rights and gold-field fees. The following tabular view shows the component parts of the total for 1868:—

	Revenue Collected by Receivers of Land Revenue (shown in Table 35).	Duty on Gold Exported (shown in Tables 32 and 33).	Miners' Rights and Gold-field Fees (shown in Tables 32 and 33).	Totals.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Province of Auckland - -	3,479 9 10	6,701 10 6	18,294 1 1	28,475 1 5
„ Taranaki - - -	—	—	—	—
„ Wellington - -	15,831 11 5	—	—	15,831 11 5
„ Hawke's Bay - -	4,763 12 7	—	—	4,763 12 7
„ Nelson - - -	3,882 5 4	26,037 7 8	3,173 19 3	33,093 12 3
„ Marlborough - -	4,970 16 9	50 9 3	—	5,021 6 0
„ Canterbury - -	73,538 2 6	—	644 19 6	74,183 2 0
County of Westland - - -	15,720 3 10	25,410 4 10	8,888 16 2	50,019 4 10
Province of Otago - - -	136,898 16 0	20,392 14 2	19,743 0 7	177,034 10 9
„ Southland - - -	28,349 1 1	1,061 11 9	155 0 6	29,565 13 4
Totals - - - -	287,433 19 4	79,653 18 2	50,899 17 1	417,987 14 7

The amount of territorial revenue shown in the first column is exclusive of 7,335*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, proceeds of land sold in the province of Auckland, under the New Zealand Settlements Acts, subject to special appropriation, and therefore not "Land Revenue" in the usual acceptation of the term.]

General total of revenue.

The general total of the revenue (both ordinary and territorial) amounted in 1868 to 1,620,835*l.*, against 1,787,314*l.* in 1867, being a decrease of 166,479*l.*, or 9·31 per cent.

NEW ZEALAND.

Comparison of 1867 and 1868.

The following table exhibits a comparative view of the revenue, ordinary and territorial, in the several provinces in 1867 and 1868, specifying the centesimal increase or decrease in each province in the latter year :—

	Ordinary Revenue.			Territorial Revenue.			Total Ordinary and Territorial.		
	1867.	1868.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1867.	1868.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1867.	1868.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.
PROVINCES—	£	£		£	£		£	£	
Auckland	178,145	197,693	Incr. 10·97	18,522	35,810	Incr. 93·33	196,667	233,503	Incr. 18·73
Taranaki	15,220	12,452	Decr. 18·18	419	—	—	15,639	12,452	Decr. 20·37
Wellington	148,210	130,348	Decr. 12·05	18,234	15,832	Decr. 13·17	166,444	146,180	Decr. 12·17
Hawke's Bay	34,111	32,957	Decr. 3·38	13,868	4,764	Decr. 65·64	47,979	37,721	Decr. 21·38
Nelson	100,963	133,525	Incr. 32·25	69,671	33,094	Decr. 52·49	170,634	166,619	Decr. 2·35
Marlborough	12,046	10,356	Decr. 14·02	11,060	5,021	Decr. 54·60	23,106	15,377	Decr. 33·45
Canterbury (including County of Westland in 1867)	375,805	185,816	Decr. 14·26	187,065	74,183	Decr. 33·60	562,870	259,999	Decr. 20·69
COUNTY—									
Westland	—	136,368		—	50,019		—	186,387	
PROVINCES—									
Otago	309,456	307,339	Decr. 0·68	194,299	177,034	Decr. 8·88	503,755	484,373	Decr. 3·84
Southland	51,351	48,534	Decr. 5·48	48,592	29,566	Decr. 39·15	99,943	78,100	Decr. 21·85
Chatham Islands	277	124	Decr. 55·23	—	—	—	277	124	Decr. 55·23
	1,225,584	1,195,512	Decr. 2·45	561,730	425,323	Decr. 24·28	1,787,314	1,620,835	Decr. 9·31

Income and Expenditure.

The income and expenditure of the Colony, and of the provinces, in 1868 are shown in three tables. The first of these (No. XXXII.) presents, on opposite pages, a view of the income and expenditure in their various branches, as relating to the Colonial treasury and the provincial treasuries, taken collectively. The two succeeding tables show the income and expenditure of the several provinces (and of the county of Westland) taken separately. A table follows, which shows in detail the receipts and disbursements by the receivers of land revenue during the year.

Debt of the General and Provincial Governments.

Information relating to the debt of the general and provincial Governments of New Zealand, authorized by Acts or Ordinances, up to the 31st of December, 1868, is given in two tables, occupying seven pages. The first (No. XXXVI.) shows the following particulars:—The total amount authorized to be borrowed, specifying by what Government, and under what authority; the total amount raised on the 31st of December, 1868, specifying the amount of debentures in circulation, the rate of interest, and when the respective debentures are redeemable; also, the rate of sinking fund, the amount of sinking fund accrued, and the manner in which it has been invested. But the debt of the Colony owing by the General and Provincial Governments respectively being shown in No. XXXVI., as the loans were authorized by each, and subsequent legislation and the creation of new provinces having distributed the liability in other proportions, another statement is given in No. XXXVI.A, showing the actual liability of each Government as it really existed on the 31st of December, 1868. Explanatory remarks are added to each of the tables, to which it will be necessary to refer for a view of the subject, which it would not be possible to give clearly except in connection with the figures as they are shown at length in the tables.

It will be seen that, according to No. XXXVI., the total amount of debentures in circulation on the 31st December, 1868, was 7,178,143*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*; and the total amount of sinking fund accrued was 348,831*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

Waste Lands—Sales, &c.

According to the plan adopted in the volume for last year, the information given in these tables has been extended to the Crown lands held under leases. No. XXXVIII. shows the number of acres of waste lands sold in the several provinces in 1868, with the rate per acre, and other particulars. No. XXXIX. shows the number of acres absolutely disposed of without sale—to immigrants; to naval and military settlers under New Zealand Settlement Acts, &c.; reserves granted for public purposes under "Public "Reserves Act, 1854;" to Europeans or Natives under "Waste Lands Act, 1858," "Crown "Grants Act (No. 2), 1862," Native reserves Acts, &c.; to Natives by grants under "Native "Lands Act, 1865," &c.; and in satisfaction of land scrip or otherwise not specified. No. XL. shows the Crown lands held under depasturing and other leases (except for gold mining), and the rents and assessments paid.

Banks.

A table prepared by the Assistant Treasurer, and now introduced for the first time in the statistical volume, shows the average liabilities and assets of the several banks in New Zealand in respect of their transactions within the Colony during the year 1868, together with their capital and profits. The liabilities and assets are the averages of the amounts shown in the four quarterly returns furnished by the respective banks, and published in the 'New Zealand Gazette,' according to the provisions of "The Bankers' "Returns Act, 1858." The particulars as to "capital and profit" are taken from the returns for the last quarter of the year, and include for each bank the capital paid up to the 31st December, 1868, the rate per annum of last dividend declared to the shareholders; the amount of last dividend declared; and the amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring such dividend. The banks included in the table are the bank of Australasia, the bank of New South Wales, the bank of New Zealand, the bank of Otago (limited), and the Union Bank of Australia.

Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 1868, 11 joint stock companies were incorporated in the Colony,—viz., 2 in the province of Auckland; 2 in the province of Taranaki; 2 in the province of Hawke's Bay; 2 in the province of Wellington; 2 in the province of Canterbury; and 1 in the county of Westland. Various particulars relating to these companies (and to 13 companies incorporated in 1867) will be found in Table No. XLII. Similar particulars relating to all the companies incorporated since "The Joint Stock Companies "Act, 1860," came into operation, have been published in previous statistical volumes. The total number of companies incorporated up to December, 1868, is 102—viz., 1 in 1861; 13 in 1862; 19 in 1863; 12 in 1864; 15 in 1865; 18 in 1866; 13 in 1867; and 11 in 1868. Of the total number during the whole period, 37 were in the province of Auckland; 6 in the province of Taranaki; 3 in the province of Hawke's Bay; 4 in the province of Wellington; 4 in the province of Nelson; 1 in the province of Marlborough; 22 in the province of Canterbury; 1 in the county of Westland; and 24 in the province of Otago.

Prices of Provisions and Live Stock.

The average prices of provisions and live stock in each of the provinces (and in the County of Westland) are shown in a table prepared on the same plan as in previous years.

Post Office.

Letters received and despatched.

The total number of letters received in New Zealand during the year 1868 were—from places without the Colony, 532,636, against 559,389 in 1867; and from places within the Colony, 2,070,441 against 1,848,942 in 1867; making a general total of 2,603,077, against 2,408,331, being an increase of 194,746. The total numbers of letters despatched were—to places without the Colony, 506,395, against 538,565 in 1867; and to places within the Colony, 1,867,727, against 1,864,344 in 1867; making a general total of 2,374,122, against 2,402,909 in 1867, being a decrease of 28,787.

Newspapers received and despatched.

The total number of newspapers received in 1868 were—from places without the Colony, 1,005,733, against 973,885 in 1867; and from places within the Colony, 901,576, against 696,635 in 1867; making a general total of 1,907,309, against 1,670,520, being an increase of 236,789. The total numbers of newspapers despatched in 1868 were—to places without the Colony, 363,407, against 346,913 in 1867; and to places within the Colony, 1,012,909, against 1,043,455 in 1867; making a general total of 1,376,316, against 1,390,368 in 1867, being a decrease of 14,052.

A comparative table shows the postal revenue in the several provinces for the respective years 1858 to 1868, inclusive. The total amount in 1868 was 57,107*l.* 14*s.*, against 55,331*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in 1867, being an increase of 1,775*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, or 3·20 per cent. The same table exhibits in a compendious form the total number of letters and newspapers respectively which were received or despatched during the same eleven years (1858–1868).

Money orders.

The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1868 was 25,854, against 24,473 in 1867, being an increase of 1,381. The total amount of these orders in 1868 was 118,211*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, against 115,610*l.* 13*s.* in 1867, being an increase of 2,600*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1868 was 14,598, against

NEW ZEALAND.

12,659 in 1867, being an increase of 1,939. The total amount of these orders in 1868 was 67,536*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, against 61,151*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* in 1867, being an increase of 6,385*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*

Savings Banks.

The information relating to savings banks now occupies three tables, viz., two for the Post Office Savings Banks, and one for the savings banks which were in operation before the establishment of those in connection with the Post Office.

Post Office Savings Banks.

At the close of the year 1868 there were in the Colony 55 Post Office Savings Banks, being an increase of nine as compared with 1867. Of these, 13 were in the province of Auckland; 1 in the province of Taranaki; 2 in the province of Hawke's Bay; 3 in the province of Wellington; 5 in the province of Nelson; 3 in the province of Marlborough; 3 in the county of Westland; 6 in the province of Canterbury; 16 in the province of Otago; and 3 in the province of Southland. Within the year, 3,282 new accounts were opened, and the total deposits (including additions to open accounts) amounted to 194,535*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* The total amount of principal withdrawn during the year was 106,567*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* Taking into account the whole period from the commencement of the system in February, 1867, to the 31st December, 1868, there remained on the latter date a total balance to the credit of depositors amounting to 163,518*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

Table No. L. contains a summary of these transactions, including a comparison with 1867; and No. LI. shows a detailed statement of the transactions at each of the banks throughout the Colony.

Previously existing Savings Banks.

The number of savings banks, other than those connected with the Post Office, was 10. The total number of persons having deposits in these banks on the 31st December, 1868, was 3,869 (of whom 29 were Maoris). The total deposits during the year amounted to 57,474*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, and the total of the sums withdrawn to 65,960*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 80,097*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*

Taking both classes of savings banks together, there was, on the 31st of December, 1868, an aggregate amount of 243,616*l.* 2*s.* to the credit of the depositors.

Telegraph Lines.

Telegraph Lines.

Information relating to the telegraph lines in New Zealand is now introduced for the first time in the statistical volume, and occupies two tables, including the Otago Provincial line, as well as the general Government lines. In the first will be found the names of the stations, which, in December, 1868, numbered 48, viz., general Government lines, 41, and Otago line, 7;—the number of miles of lines, which were, general Government lines 1,329 miles of line and 2,495 miles of wire, and Otago line 142 miles, being altogether 1,471 miles of line;—the number of telegrams—(the private and the Government telegrams being distinguished in the table)—the aggregate of which in 1868 amounted to 134,647, against 87,436 in 1867, and 48,271 in 1866; and the cash revenue (of private telegrams), with the cash value (of Government telegrams), the totals of these taken together being 26,224*l.* 16*s.* in 1868, against 14,295*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* in 1867, and 9,114*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in 1866. The second table shows the cost of the lines of telegraph throughout New Zealand, and of the Cook's Strait cable, showing the total cost (the particulars of which are given in the table) to have been 124,208*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* The cost of the Cook's Strait cable, included in this amount, was 29,864*l.*

Public Schools.

The table relating to public schools in December, 1868, is defective as compared with that for the last year, no numbers for Auckland being included in it, for the reason stated in a note to the table (which is copied from the note appended to the form of return received from the Provincial Government)—to the effect that, owing to the repeal by the Provincial Council of "The Education Act, 1857," there were not (at the period referred to in the form) any schools in the province which could strictly be shown in it as *public* schools. The numbers for 1867, being the same as those already published in the statistical volume for that year, were again furnished, and are again stated in the note to the table No. LV. in the present volume. The figures for the other provinces (excluding Auckland) show, collectively taken, increases of 25 schools, 34 teachers, and 1,062 pupils on the books in December quarter, 1868, as compared with December quarter, 1867.

Legal and Criminal Statistics.

Fourteen tables are occupied by the legal and criminal statistics of the Colony in 1868. Of these, three (Nos. LVI.–LVIII.) relate to the Supreme Court, showing the criminal, the civil, and the bankruptcy cases; and three (LIX.–LXI.) to the district courts, showing the same classes of cases respectively. Seven tables (Nos. LXII.–LXVIII.) are occupied by the cases brought before the resident magistrates' and magistrates' courts, —the cases in which Europeans, or Maories, or both were concerned, being distinguished, —a summary (No. LXIV.) showing the number of convictions in the resident magistrates' and magistrates' courts, for each of the offences of most frequent occurrence, in the several years from 1853 to 1868 inclusive. The last table of this series (No. LXIX.) shows the number of prisoners committed to gaol in 1868, specifying the sexes, the causes of imprisonment, the native countries, the classes (as to social position), and the degrees of education of the prisoners.

The aggregate number of convictions in the year 1868 in the Supreme, the District, and the resident magistrates' and magistrates' courts for the several classes of offences (particulars of which will be found in the tables), was 11,363, against 11,677 in 1867, being a decrease of 314. The unfavourable impression which the figures thus nakedly presented might make as to the amount of crime in New Zealand, will, to a considerable extent, be removed by recalling the fact that these numbers include a large proportion of comparatively light offences—for instance, drunkenness alone contributing 4,595 to the total for 1868, and 4,927 to that for 1867. It will be seen by Table LXIX. that the total number committed to gaol in 1868 was 3,292 (viz., 2,672 males, and 620 females), being 860 less than in 1867, when the total was 4,152 (viz., 3,570 males, and 582 females).

The aggregate number of civil cases commenced in the Supreme and the District Courts in 1868, was 1,836, against 2,906 in 1867. In the resident magistrates' and magistrates' courts in 1868, the total number of civil cases was 20,216, against 30,705 in 1867. The total amount sued for in these Courts in 1868 was 264,975*l.*, against 337,289 in 1867; and the total amount for which judgment was given in 1868 was 121,258*l.*, against, 146,472*l.* in 1867.

There are two tables showing the statistics supplied for the Supreme and District Courts respectively, under "The Bankruptcy Act, 1867," for the year commencing on the 1st December, 1867, and ending on the 30th November, 1868. The totals for the Supreme and District Courts (taken together) within this period were as follow:— Number of declarations of insolvency filed, 627; number of petitions, 395. Of the cases before the courts, 235 were withdrawn, dismissed, or lapsed; changed from bankruptcy to arrangement, 21; debtors discharged by court, 180 immediately, 34 having been suspended; number of deeds of arrangement under Part XVIII. of the Act, 106. The numbers do not admit of detailed comparison with the figures published for former periods in Table No. LIII. of the statistical volume for 1867, the returns from which the present tables are compiled having been furnished in accordance with the classifications introduced by "The Bankruptcy Act, 1867."

Meteorology.

The interesting and valuable tables relating to meteorology have, as before, been prepared under the direction of Dr. Hector, Inspector of Meteorological Stations in New Zealand. Instead, however, of being given as an "Appendix," they are now made part of the regularly numbered series of the general statistics of the Colony. No. LXX. presents, in a summary form, a comparative view of climate as observed at the several meteorological stations in New Zealand during the year 1868; and No. LXXI. shows, in detail, the observations at the respective stations. Although for convenience of arrangement only one number is given to the successive sheets containing these tables, the several stations are distinguished by distinct letters, which, being shown in the table of contents prefixed to the volume, will, it is anticipated, prevent any delay or difficulty in referring to any particular station respecting which information may be desired. The stations included are,—Mongonui, Auckland, Taranki, Napier, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Bealey, Hokitika, Dunedin, and Southland.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. BENNETT,

Registrar-General.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir RICHARD AIREY, G.C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(38.)

MY LORD, Gibraltar, March 30, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Gibraltar, for the year 1868, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue.

2. The revenue for the year from all sources amounted to 36,873*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, which compared with that of 1867 shows an increase of 226*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1868 amounted to 36,788*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, being 100*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* less than the estimated expenditure, and exhibiting an increase over that of the previous year of 3,471*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* This increase is to be accounted for principally by the payment to the Sanitary Commissioners of the sum of 4,500*l.*, the stipulated contribution from the Colonial revenue in aid of the drainage works, &c., now in progress, and by the further payment of 1,497*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, for the purchase by the Crown of a house and ground required for the enlargement of the principle thoroughfare in the city.

Notwithstanding these extraordinary disbursements there remained an available surplus revenue on the 1st January, 1869, in the Colonial chest, 7,692*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and invested in exchequer bills, 7,200*l.*, making a total surplus revenue, available for 1869, amounting to 14,892*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*

Legislation.

3. During the past year, a further sanitary order in Council was passed, and six Ordinances were enacted and allowed by Her Majesty in Council, the most important of which are,

"An Ordinance for taking a Census from time to time;"

"An Ordinance for Compulsory Vaccination;" and

"An Ordinance for the Registration of Deaths;"

4. The only alteration that has been made under the head of taxes, duties, fees, &c., is the authorization of grocer's wine licences, by an order in Council of the 17th May, 1867, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1868.

Sanitary Works.

5. During the year 1868, the extension of sanitary works in connection with the drainage and water supply of Gibraltar, have been undertaken by the Sanitary Commissioners under the sanitary orders in Council of 1865 and 1868.

The estimated cost of the works in progress is 35,000*l.*, towards which the Imperial Parliament has granted 10,000*l.*, and a further sum of 4,500*l.* has been contributed from the Colonial revenue. The works were inaugurated on the 20th February, 1868. They have progressed satisfactorily, and up to the end of the year about three-fifths of the whole were completed.

Population.

6. A census of the population of Gibraltar was taken by the Registrar of Births in the month of November, 1868, and the table of population is filled up on this occasion from the last census returns.

The last preceding census was taken in 1860, when the enumeration of the inhabitants, exclusive of the military population, showed an aggregate of 17,647 persons, of whom 2,185 were aliens on temporary permits.

The census of 1868 gives 8,540 males, and 9,523 females, or the total of 18,063 persons, of whom 2,281 were aliens on temporary permits; exhibiting an increase on the 8 years of 320 persons in the fixed civil population, and of 96 persons in the alien floating population.

Allowance, however, must be made for the number of deaths from Asiatic cholera in 1865, supposed to be about 420, and for the number of inhabitants of Gibraltar, who have emigrated, principally to South America and Algeria since 1860. Their number is estimated at 590.

The military population in 1868 amounted to 5,280 males, and 1,088 females, or a total of 6,368 persons, making the total gross population of the city and territory of Gibraltar, 24,431 souls.

7. It is satisfactory to observe, that notwithstanding the great demand for alien labourers required in connection with the extensive sanitary works now in progress, that there has been no great augmentation (only 96 persons) in the number of the alien floating population since 1860; a satisfactory proof of the efficacy of the existing permit system in controlling the influx of aliens into this already over-crowded fortress.

Births and Deaths.

8. The registrar's returns show that the number of births among the civil population registered in 1868, was 523, while the deaths were 447, including 46 deaths among aliens and resident strangers, showing a decrease of 48 births and 59 deaths as compared with the year 1867.

Education.

9. The number of public schools at the close of 1868 was the same as in the previous year, namely seven.

1 Public School.
1 Church of England School.
3 Roman Catholic Schools.
1 Wesleyan School; and
1 Infant and Industrial School.

In the school returns some slight fluctuations are apparent. The number of scholars in attendance was 1,703, being an increase of 165 over the preceding year.

The schools are supported by voluntary contributions, the grant from the Colonial Revenue in aid of the expenses of these establishments, being in proportion of one-third of the collections obtained by subscriptions during the year.

Shipping.

10. The shipping returns of 1868 exhibit a considerable increase of tonnage both inwards and outwards. The tonnage inwards during 1868, was 1,519,046; in 1867 it was 1,317,284, The British vessels numbered in 1868, 1,181,705 tons; in 1867, 991,351 tons, showing an increase of 190,354 tons.

Sanitary State of the Garrison.

11. The sanitary state of the garrison, and of the civil population, throughout the year, has been remarkably good, and it is pleasing to me to be able to notice the apparent prosperity and satisfactory prospects of the Colony.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) RICHARD AIREY,
Lieut.-Gen. and Governor.

MALTA.

No. 21.

MALTA.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir PATRICK GRANT, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 61.)

Palace, Valetta, June 18, 1869.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1868, and to subjoin a statement in regard to the revenue and expenditure of these Islands during the year, which has been furnished by the Auditor-General.

2. The gross revenue of Malta, during the five years immediately preceding 1868, was in round sums:—

	£	
1863	157,831	Average £171,701.
1864	169,065	
1865	168,373	
1866	196,458	
1867	166,781	

3. The gross revenue of 1868 was 162,932*l.* 18*s.* 10¾*d.*, being, in round numbers, 8,769*l.* below the last quinquennial average, and 3,849*l.* less than the gross revenue of 1867.

4. But in order to arrive at a fairer comparison of the revenue of 1868 with preceding years, it will be necessary to exclude the exceptional receipts of 1866 and 1868. The decrease in 1868 would thus become 11,099*l.*, as compared with 1867, and 9,565*l.*, as compared with the last quinquennial period.

5. Under this view the decrease of revenue in 1868 may be summarily stated as 10,000*l.* The whole of the decrease is traceable to a falling off in import dues, which is to a large extent attributable to the unusually heavy yields of agricultural produce in 1868 (especially in wheat), and the consequent diminution of demand on imported cereals.

6. The provision made in the estimates for the expenditure of 1868 was:—

	Establishments.			Exclusive of Establishment.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Estimate	68,706	3	0	79,070	0	0	147,776	3	0
Supplementary ditto laid before Council	1,309	3	9	45,926	15	3	47,235	19	0
	70,015	6	9	124,996	15	3	195,012	2	0

The actual expenditure was:—

	Establishments.			Exclusive of Establishment.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Estimate	67,785	17	0	75,312	6	3	143,098	3	3
Supplementary ditto embodied in Ordinance	1,254	8	9	32,192	16	6	33,447	5	3
	69,040	5	9	107,505	2	9	176,545	8	6

The actual expenditure was therefore 13,612*l.* 9*s.* 7¼*d.* in excess of the gross revenue of the year.

7. The exceptional works of magnitude which were undertaken, or continued under the provision of the estimates of 1868, were:—

"Santa Maria" Cemetery	£5,737	16	4
Water supply	4,509	3	6
"Porte des Bombes" Gate	1,568	0	0
Slip in New Harbour	1,731	17	7
Harbour Roads on Corradino Hill	1,618	19	10
	£15,165	17	3

Hence it will be seen that the gross revenue of 1868 was in round numbers 1,550*l.* above the ordinary current expenditure.

8. The deposits due on 31st December, 1868, amounted to 152,759*l.* 8*s.* 11½*d.*, against which the cash credit (including the 80,000*l.* deposit moneys invested) amounted to 149,089*l.* 13*s.* 2¼*d.*, leaving a deficit of 3,669*l.* 15*s.* 9¼*d.*

9. The total investment to the credit of Malta at the close of 1868, stood as follows:—

	Stock.	Price.
Deposit account	£97,353 14 2	£91,485 17 1
Scotch Church	1,233 6 8	1,097 0 0
Revenue account	11,829 2 10	10,600 0 0
	£110,416 3 8	£103,182 17 1

The first of these items is composed of the sums invested from deposits, and their dividends, which up to 1867 were also invested.

The second item is an investment to meet a special arrangement between the local government and the Scotch Church; and the third is composed of proceeds of sales of land and other Government property.

The first two of these items have hitherto been treated as capital set apart for special purposes, and the third item alone has been held to be available to make up any accidental deficiency in the revenue.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PATRICK GRANT, Lieut.-General,
Governor.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

HELIGOLAND AND FALKLAND ISLANDS.

HELI-GOLAND.

No. 22.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MAXSE to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 20).

MY LORD, Heligoland, August 9, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1868.

2. Although there can be but little general interest attached to the returns from this small Island, I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the considerable reduction of the public debt and the satisfactory payment of the taxes.

3. The Colonial School under the new arrangement, and the effective establishment of compulsory education, is working in a most satisfactory manner.

4. The greatly improved state of this Island on these points, as also in regard to the question of wrecking and salvage, is to be attributed to the powers granted by Her Majesty's Order in Council, of February, 1868, the presence on the Island of a few coast-guard, and the administration of justice in the Police Court, and in cases of wreck and salvage by an English official.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., (Signed) FITZ H. MAXSE,
&c. &c. &c. Lieut.-Colonel.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 23.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor ROBINSON to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 191.)

MY LORD, Government House, Falkland Islands, September 6, 1869.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Falkland Islands for the year 1868.

2. I have nothing special to add to former reports, but I may say, generally, that the condition of the Colony continues steadily to improve, and that our prospects as a sheep-rearing country are now very encouraging. The results of the tobacco dip, to which I referred in my report for last year, were completely successful, the Falkland Islands Company for instance having lost only 300 sheep from scab since the introduction of the dip, as against a loss of 13,000 during the years 1867–68. The manager, Mr. F. E. Cobb, in a letter which I have received from him upon the subject, adds :—

"The result of the dipping has been to preserve almost entirely the fleeces of the breeding-stock and old sheep, while it has saved the lives of the hoggets, last year's lambs, always the most susceptible of disease; although the fleeces of the latter have suffered to a certain extent.

"Whether owing to the fine spring or the improved health of the breeding-stock I cannot say, but it is certain that the lambing now progressing will be an unusually good one, as the number of twins is remarkable. I look forward to having a stock of at least 40,000 sheep to commence the winter with."

"With regard to the result of the dipping on the returns of wool, I anticipate an increase of about 250 bales on last year's dip. 20,000 in all were clipped last year, and should show an average this year of at least 1 lb. per head more, making at once 50 bales of 350 lbs. each; and 10,000 more will be clipped this year, which should

produce 200 bales. It is rather early to make an estimate, but I feel pretty confident that mine is correct." FALKLAND ISLANDS.

3. The advantages which we offer as a harbour of refuge are becoming better known and more largely employed; and though the price of labour is still high, I believe that shipping repairs can be effected here at a cheaper rate than at any port on the coast of South America. The want of a Dock continues to be much felt, and I am only surprised that capitalists interested in the place have not already recognized and taken advantage of the opening.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1868.

PART III.

EASTERN COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1870.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1870.

[*C.*—151.] *Price* 9½*d.*

SCHEDULE.

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PART III.

CEYLON.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 113.)

MY LORD, Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon, October 9, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1868.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of last year amounted to 925,265*l.*, being less than that of 1867 by 44,670*l.*

3. In my Despatch, No. 62, of the 4th ult., respecting the financial position of the Colony, I explained the causes to which the falling off in the revenue of 1868 was attributable, viz.:—

1st. The long-continued and excessive drought which prevailed during the first six months of the year, and the consequent sickness amongst large masses of the population, resulting in the failure of the early or yala rice harvest.

2ndly. The depression and stagnation of trade, consequent on the financial crisis of 1866.

3rdly. The great success of the railway, the immediate effect of which was to divert from the general revenue into the sinking fund large items in the shape of tolls, cart licences, arrack licences, formerly accruing from the immense cart traffic on the Kandy road.

4. The decrease in the revenue of 1868, as compared with that of the previous year, appears therefore principally in the following items, which were more or less affected by the above-mentioned causes, viz.:—

	£
Customs, Imports	11,221
Land sales	9,311
Land revenue:—	
Paddy	26,130
Fine grain	1,065
Rents, exclusive of lands:—	
Tolls, bridges, and canals	7,715
Licences:—	
Arrack, rum, and toddy	13,443

5. The apparent decrease of 8,360*l.* in the item of salt, under the head of sale of Government property, arises from the different systems under which the sale of salt was conducted in the Jaffna district in the years 1867 and 1868. In the former year, the rent was retained in aumany, that is, the retail of the article was conducted by Government officers instead of through the renters, and the receipts from the sale of salt were brought to account under the head of sale of Government property; whilst in 1868 the system was reversed; the retail of salt was rented or licensed, and the receipts were brought to account under the head licences; consequently the returns of 1868 show a decrease in the receipts under the former head, and an increase under the latter.

6. The decrease of 2,620*l.* under the head of ration stoppages is owing to the transfer of the provision department of the commissariat to the military authorities, in consequence of which no recoveries were made under this head in 1868.

7. The total ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to 974,950*l.*, in addition to which there was a further expenditure on account of public works of 27,657*l.*, charged against the balances of former years, and of 51,363*l.* under the surplus funds Ordinance. The expenditure of 1868 exceeded the revenue by the sum of 49,684*l.*

8. As compared with the expenditure of the preceeding year, that of 1868 shows an excess of 47,028*l.* Under the head of Establishments, there is an increase of 12,334*l.*,

CEYLON.

caused chiefly by additions to the establishments of Fiscals, the Register-general of lands, and the Police Force. Under the head of works and buildings, there is an increase of 3,050*l.*, under roads, streets, and bridges, of 23,714*l.*, and under Colonial store of 5,909*l.* An addition of 30,000*l.* appears under the head of contribution towards military expenditure, being the increased amount of contribution due by the Colony under the agreement entered into with Her Majesty's Government. A decrease of 24,718*l.* is shewn under the head miscellaneous, which is attributable to the reduced expenditure by the Surveyor-General on account of the survey of Temple lands.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The statement of assets and liabilities furnished by the Auditor-General shows that on the 31st of December, 1868, the assets amounted to 489,474*l.*, and the liabilities to 368,438*l.*, leaving an apparent balance in favour of the Government of 121,036*l.* But deducting from the assets a sum of 123,000*l.* on account of revenue debts outstanding, a portion of which only is considered recoverable, and a further sum of 4,500*l.*, amount of surcharges outstanding, the result will be an excess of liabilities over assets to the extent of 6,463*l.* This however presents, as pointed out in my Despatch, No. 62, of the 4th ult., a result unduly unfavourable to the Colony. I stated in that Despatch that there was in store, or in course of transit from England on the 31st December last, 20,000*l.* worth of Brotherhood's iron girder bridges, which had been paid for, and the value of which will be recovered from the Public Works Department as they are drawn from the store; this item should therefore be added to the assets. On the other hand, from the unexpended public works balances brought forward and included in the liabilities should be deducted a sum of 7,606*l.*, which will lapse. The statement should further be amended by the omission from the assets of the outstanding revenue debts and surcharges, amounting to 127,500*l.*, and from the liabilities of a sum of 22,100*l.*, being balance of drafts and remittances outstanding. On these amendments being made, the statement will exhibit an available unappropriated balance in cash and stores at the commencement of the current year of 43,243*l.*

Imports and Exports.

10. The customs returns show that there was a decrease of 208,310*l.* in the value of goods imported, as compared with 1867, and an increase of 135,066*l.* on the exports, the value being—

Imports.

	£
1867	3,612,298
1868	3,403,988

Exports.

	£
1867	3,339,004
1868	3,474,070

11. Adding to these the specie imported and exported, which is not included in the above figures, the total value of the imports and exports of 1868, as compared with those of the preceding year stands thus:—

Imports.

	£
1867	4,504,338
1868	4,403,177

Exports.

	£
1867	3,530,224
1868	3,786,721

12. The total value of goods, exclusive of specie, imported and retained in the Colony during 1868 amounted to 3,077,298*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Imports, exclusive of specie	3,403,988
Deduct imports exported	326,690
Goods retained	£3,077,298

13. The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1868 amounted to 686,538*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Specie imported	999,189
Ditto exported	312,651
Specie retained	£686,538

14. The total value therefore of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1868 amounted to 3,763,836*l.*, as follows:—

	£
Goods retained	3,077,298
Specie ditto	686,538
Goods and specie retained	£3,763,836

15. The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1868 amounted to 3,147,380*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Exports exclusive of specie	3,474,070
Deduct imports exported	326,690
Ceylon produce	£3,147,380

16. The decrease in imports is chiefly on cotton goods, amounting to 248,974*l.*, and upon rice, 26,403*l.* There is however an increase on the following articles, viz.:—

	£
Specie	107,148
Coal and coke	100,413
Haberdashery	11,167
Malt liquor	3,499
Spirits	11,510
Wines	5,239

17. The increase in exports is principally on coffee, of which 46,862 cwts. were shipped to the United Kingdom in excess of 1867, and 26,544 cwts. to Mauritius.

18. There is also an excess of 6,938*l.* in the value of exports to Australia.

19. The increase of exports on specie to British India has been 121,431*l.*

20. Plumbago has been largely exported during the year. 140,096 cwts. have been shipped, valued at 72,041*l.*, being an excess of 92,259 cwts., valued at 52,678*l.*, over the previous year.

21. The exportation of cinnamon has also much improved, the excess over 1867 being 1,338,758 lbs., valued at 51,937*l.*

22. The revenue derived from imports and exports in 1868 was 282,059*l.*, showing a decrease of 4,066*l.* as compared with that of the preceding year, which amounted to 286,125*l.* The decrease of revenue on imports was 10,098*l.*, of which 4,352*l.* were on cotton goods, and 7,277*l.* on grain; but there was an increase of 3,152*l.* on wines and spirits, and 709*l.* on earthenware. On exports the increase of revenue was 6,031*l.* as compared with the previous year, and it is accounted for by the increased exportation of the following articles:—

	£
Coffee showing an increase of	3,187
Cinnamon	1,039
Plumbago	1,317

23. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoanut oil and coir for the last ten years; return of the total valve of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1866, 1867 and 1868, and a statement of the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in the same years. Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2. Enclosure 3.

24. There is an increase of tonnage in 1868 over 1867, amounting to 49,849 tons, and although the number of vessels clearing outwards is really less by 17 than in the pre-

CEYLON.

ceding year, the excess is accounted for by vessels of a larger tonnage being employed in the export trade than heretofore.

Public Works.

25. The total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 326,024*l.*

26. The following abstracts furnished by the Director of Public Works in his annual Report show the details of the expenditure under the different heads, the funds from which it has been met, the increase and decrease as compared with the expenditure of 1867, and the proportion of expenditure in each province.

Details of Expenditure.

	1868.	1867.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments	28,988 10 0	27,029 16 3	—	1,958 13 9
Office contingencies, transport, &c.	9,343 2 8¾	9,575 16 11½	232 14 2¾	—
New roads and bridges	114,006 15 10¼	117,386 13 8¾	3,379 17 10½	—
New buildings	22,205 3 1½	9,299 2 9½	—	12,906 0 4
Canals and irrigation	10,681 16 11	3,434 8 1	—	7,247 8 10
Miscellaneous	16,685 1 8¼	13,652 11 0¾	—	3,032 10 7½
Repair and upkeep of roads	116,643 13 8¾	132,036 14 9	15,393 1 0¼	—
Repair of buildings	7,470 0 5¼	10,510 7 0	3,040 6 6¾	—
Total £	326,024 4 5¾	322,925 10 7½	—	3,098 13 10¼

Funds from which the Expenditure has been met.

	1868.	1867.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Supply bill	214,969 12 7	187,788 11 3	—	27,181 1 4
Balance of previous supply bills	27,184 10 3¼	28,873 17 10	1,689 7 6¾	—
Loan Board funds ordinance	1,216 3 3½	952 18 8¼	—	263 4 7¼
Private contributions	8,992 8 3¼	15,708 17 9¾	6,716 9 6½	—
Road ordinance labour and commutation	22,362 7 7	22,056 12 1¾	—	305 15 5¼
Surplus funds ordinance	51,299 2 5¾	67,544 12 10¾	16,245 10 5	—
Total £	326,024 4 5¾	322,925 10 7½	—	3,098 13 10¼

Expenditure in each Province.

Province.	1868.	1867.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Central	104,000	133,000	29,000	—
Western	128,000	125,000	—	3,000
North-western	25,500	25,000	—	500
Northern	17,000	18,000	1,000	—
Southern	36,500	15,000	—	21,500
Eastern	15,000	7,000	—	8,000
Total £	326,000	323,000	—	3,000

27. Of the roads in course of construction last year, the most important ones were the road from Badulla to Batticaloa, 28 miles of which have been completed at a cost averaging 1,280*l.* per mile; the Rambukan road, 10½ miles in length, opening the Dolosbagé district to the railway, completed at a cost of 1,490*l.* per mile, exclusive of two bridges of 80 feet span. The Morawak Kóralé road has been commenced, and an expenditure of 3,716*l.* incurred on it in the past year.

28. I subjoin a list furnished by the Director of Public Works of the principal bridges in the course of construction during the past year:—

Names of Bridges.	No. of Spans.	Length of each Span.	Cost.	Date or probable Date of Completion.
			£ s. d.	
Dikwella	1	100	1,820 10 0	December, 1868.
Mahamódara	1	150	3,241 8 9	„
Mátara	3	2 of 100 1 „ 150	8,912 0 0	July, 1869.
Bentota	2	140	6,010 0 0	„
Dedwin Oya	3	120	8,980 0 0	December, 1869.
Maha Oya (Polgahawela)	3	120	7,878 0 0	July, 1869.
Mirisgóni Oya	1	120	4,992 0 0	December, 1869.
Wéganga (Yatiyantota)	1	140	5,475 7 5	July, 1868.
Kaluganga (Ratnapuré)	3	1 of 140 2 „ 120	15,000 0 0	June, 1868.
Pálampóddár	1	120	4,500 0 0	July, 1869.
Nikapota	1	140	4,322 12 0	December, 1869.
Lémastota	1	100	3,730 0 0	March, 1869.
Talagalla	1	80	1,389 0 0	January, 1869.
Hingula	1	80	1,272 0 0	„
Morawak Kóralé Road	1	100	1,779 0 0	October, 1869.

29. Of the new buildings in progress last year, the following were the most important:—

Police barracks at Colombo, on which 6,946*l.* were expended.

Powder magazine at Colombo—expenditure, 1,213*l.*

Improvement of the Government Factory, Colombo, 1,024*l.*

Additions to the new Civil Hospital, Borella, 1,543*l.*

30. The building of a new hospital at Gampola, and additions to the hospital at Kandy, have been in progress, and a sum of 2,491*l.* expended on the works.

31. The Cholera Hospital at Jaffna has been completed at an expenditure of 872*l.*

32. The following extract from the annual report of the Director of Public Works shows the irrigation works which were undertaken last year:—

1. Rugam, near Batticaloa—a tank of 2,400 acres, the construction of which is estimated to cost 8,736*l.*, and to benefit 5,000 acres. Its embankment is one mile and a quarter in length, in addition to a large masonry dam and spillwater. The work is in satisfactory progress, and will be sufficiently advanced to secure water for the irrigation of the lands at present partially cultivated before the burst of the north-east monsoon.

2. Boralesgamuwa—a tank of about 36 acres in the Western Province, which was completed during the last year, costing 358*l.*; it will benefit about 300 acres.

3. Alut Ela, near Badulla, consisting of a masonry dam thrown across the river, and the improvement of the existing irrigation channels by the addition of a head sluice, spillwaters, and small aqueducts. The amount benefited is 375 acres, at a cost of 450*l.* I am informed by the assistant government agent that the whole of the lands benefited by this work have been successfully cultivated since its completion,—a result which has not been previously attained for the last seven years.

4. Borale, a tank near Weligama, in the Southern Province, benefiting about 300 acres. The villagers, having undertaken the earthwork, requested the aid of Government for the construction of the masonry and sluices, amounting to 135*l.* This work is rapidly approaching completion.

5. Denagame, a large tank, about 18 miles from Málára, for the irrigation of about 1,600 acres, at a cost of 1,825*l.* The works have been commenced, but will scarcely be completed before the end of the year. It was originally intended that Government should only undertake the construction of the masonry and sluices, and that the cultivators should execute the earthwork in the embankments. The cultivators have, however, since the commencement of operations, requested the aid of Government to execute the earthwork also.

6. Buttala Ela, near Alupata, consisting of the construction of a new irrigation channel, and a permanent dam across the Buttala River, for the purpose of irrigating 1,200 acres, at an estimated cost of 1,056*l.* The channel was also completed, but, owing to the unhealthiness of the season, operations have been temporarily suspended in anticipation of one less sickly; meanwhile, the cultivators have somewhat prematurely forced the water through the unfinished irrigation channel by means of a temporary dam

CEYLON.

7. Allai, a tank for the irrigation of about 1,600 acres, estimated to cost 2,674*l.* This work is approaching completion.

8. Periya Kulam, a tank about 9 miles north of Trincomalee, for the irrigation of about 600 acres, at a cost of 1,016*l.* This work is also nearly completed.

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy.

* Not printed.

33. In the enclosed reports from the Director of Public Works,* these buildings are represented to be in fair order as regards all essential matters. But in view of the anticipated visit of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, in March, 1870, it will be necessary to make considerable alterations and improvements in the Queen's House at Colombo, and the Pavilion at Kandy. The architect in the Public Works Department has submitted a report, showing the improvements recommended by him. I have sanctioned such as appear to me to be urgently needed, and the work has been commenced, and will be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible.

† Not printed.

34. I enclose a report from the Colonial storekeeper,† on the state of the public furniture in these houses.

Surveying Department.

35. The Surveyor-General reports that, during the year 1868, 3,323 lots, containing 17,752 acres of Crown land were disposed of for 32,181*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* per acre, exclusive of fees, which amounted to 4,241*l.* 4*s.*; that 2,509 lots, containing 9,605 acres, were settled on certificates, free grants, &c., the fees for which amounted to 1,711*l.* 13*s.*; that the fees received for temple land titles amounted to 238*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and that 141*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* were received for tracings, &c.

36. The total number of lots alienated from the Crown was 5,832, containing 27,358 acres, and the total sum realized by land sales and fees amounted to 38,514*l.* This shows a decrease of 6,743*l.*, as compared with the receipts of the previous year, which amounted to 45,257*l.*

37. The survey of temple lands has been completed, and the examination of the contractor's work is progressing. The number of acres surveyed in 1868 was 10,763; the total extent surveyed by the department and on contract since the commencement being 379,413 acres.

38. The issue of title plans has been greater than in any previous year; no less than 2,999 plans, embracing an area of 23,753 acres, having been prepared in triplicate.

39. The officers of the Surveyor-General's Department were also employed during the year in surveying the town of Colombo, and in making various surveys in connexion with irrigation works, interesting accounts of which, as well as of the Surveyor-General's inspection of several old irrigation works, and of the arrangements recently made for taking meteorological observations throughout the island, will be found in the annual report of the department.

Electric Telegraph.

40. The Superintendent of Telegraphs reports that the new line from Colombo to Galle, commenced in 1867, has been completed, and has worked well, and that the other lines are also in fair order, and have worked satisfactorily.

41. The line from Mannar to Jaffna, which was commenced in September, 1868, has been completed. The total cost of the work is 5,463*l.*

42. The total receipts of the year, including those of the Indo-European and the Indian lines amounted to 26,967*l.*, of which the sum of 8,974*l.* is due to the Ceylon Government. As compared with the Ceylon receipts of the preceding year, which amounted to 7,767*l.*, this shows an increase of 1,207*l.*

43. The ordinary expenditure for working the lines in Ceylon amounted to 8,412*l.* showing an excess of receipts over expenditure of 562*l.* But, in addition to this, there was a further expenditure incurred during the year in the construction and reconstruction of lines to the amount of 4,340*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Line to Jaffna - - - - - - -	2,348	13	8
Reconstruction of Galle and Northern lines - - -	468	17	10
Half cost ofthe line along the railway to Kandy - -	1,523	5	2
	£4,340	16	8

44. In pursuance of the arrangement made with the Government of India, and

sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, the Ceylon Telegraph Department has been transferred to the Indian Government from the commencement of the present year. CEYLON.

Railway.

45. The railway has been maintained in very good order, the working of the line has been most satisfactory, and there was no interruption of the traffic from land-slips in 1868.

46. The financial results of the year have also been very satisfactory. The gross revenue amounted to 163,667*l.* 2*s.*: viz., 162,548*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, receipts from traffic, and 1,118*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, miscellaneous receipts. The working expenses amounted to 74,685*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a profit of 88,981*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* A sum of 9,665*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, was expended in providing additional station and other accommodation, which is chargeable against revenue, the capital account having been closed on the 31st December, 1867. The balance availabe for sinking fund was therefore 79,316*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

47. The number of passengers carried during the year was 180,984, and the tonnage of goods was 116,176.

Legislative.

48. Only thirteen Ordinances were passed in the Session of 1868, from Nos. 5 to 11 of 1868, and from Nos. 1 to 6 of 1869. Nos. 1 to 4 of 1868 were passed in the Session of 1867.

49. No. 5 of 1868 provides for taking a Census of the Island, a measure which was in contemplation for a long time, but which could not be carried out owing to a variety of reasons, the principal one being an apprehension that the efforts of Government towards that end might be misrepresented, and made to create discontent in the minds of an ignorant population; but as the system recently established for the registration of marriages, births, and deaths throughout the island affords facilities for the taking of a census, and there is no longer any ground for the apprehension above referred to, it was deemed advisable to pass an Ordinance giving the requisite authority for carrying out the measure.

50. Ordinance No. 6 of 1868 brings the Deltota Road under the operation of the Branch Roads' Ordinance, 1866, by which the proprietors of estates and the Government are to contribute equally for the upkeep of any road in a district.

51. No. 7 of 1868 repeals the Ordinance No. 1 of 1845, which was enacted to promote the building of places of Christian worship, and to provide for the maintenance of the ministers of the Christian religion. It was deemed expedient to repeal this Ordinance, as the principle upon which aid is given to churches and ministers has been considerably modified since the Ordinance in question became law, owing to instructions received from the Secretary of State, and as it was found also in practice that the existence of this enactment led in some cases to the assumption that assistance could be claimed as a right, and the refusal of assistance formed a legitimate ground of complaint.

52. No. 8, entitled an Ordinance relating to Stamp Duties, authorizes a reduction in the rate of duty on bonds entered into to secure advances on the crops of estates. The Oriental Bank Corporation commenced recently the practice of advancing against the crops of estates, on the security of such crops, and to be paid by the sale thereof, which afforded great assistance to the planting interests. As these bonds are renewable yearly, it is not fair to levy upon them the same rate of duty as is leviable upon bonds which continue in force for many years. The Ordinance also authorizes adhesive stamps being used for what are called by bankers "marginal credit bills," that is to say, bills drawn within the island on parties abroad on forms provided by the drawers, to which forms are attached the engagements of such drawers to accept them. As these bills are drawn out of the Colony, and the affixing of stamps thereon gives rise to delay, it was deemed advisable to extend the use of adhesive stamps to them.

53. No. 9 of 1868, and No. 6 of 1869, make provision respectively for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1868, and for the contingent services of the year 1869.

54. No. 10 of 1868 makes further provision for the working expenses of the railway for the years 1867 and 1868, and No. 3 of 1869 provides for the working expenses for the year 1869.

55. No. 11 of 1868 amends and consolidates the laws of this Colony relating to the administration of justice. The provisions relating to this subject were contained in three charters, and in about fifteen Ordinances; and it was considered desirable to embody those provisions in one consolidating enactment, particularly as such a measure was cal-

CEYLON.

culated to facilitate the compilation of the new edition of the Ordinances in force in this Colony.

56. No. 1 of 1869, entitled an Ordinance relating to the Supply of Gas for Municipal Towns in this Island, gives the requisite powers to any company which may enter into a contract with the municipal council in any town to light such town with gas, to enable them to carry out the scheme.

57. No. 2 of 1869 establishes tolls on certain roads, with a view to providing to some extent the means of maintaining the same in repair.

58. No. 4 of 1869 makes certain amendments, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State, in the Ordinance No. 12 of 1867, providing for the military expenditure of the Colony.

59. No. 5 repeals certain enactments, and makes further provision relating to the new edition of the enactments authorised by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1867. The enactments repealed are obsolete and quite inapplicable to existing circumstances, and their repeal would prevent the new edition of enactments being encumbered with useless matter.

Public Health.

60. The island was happily free from cholera in an epidemic form during the year 1868. Only two sporadic cases were reported to have occurred among the prisoners in the Kandy gaol, one of whch terminated fatally.

61. Small-pox too did not prevail in an epidemic form in any part of the island, excepting in the North-western Province, in which 543 cases were reported to have occurred in the districts of Puttalam and Chilaw, of which 78 proved fatal. The total number of cases in all the other Provinces were 116, and the total number of deaths 23.

62. An epidemic fever of an intermittent type made its appearance in the early part of the year in the Western Province, and continued until about August. Special steps were taken by the Government to meet the emergency. Local hospitals were opened in various districts of the Province, and medical officers attached to them, who not only treated all cases coming to hospital, but visited the houses of the people in the villages of the infected districts. This fever prevailed most extensively throughout the Western Province, but it extended also to the Native population in the Southern, North-western and parts of the Central Province.

The fever was produced by the unusual drought which prevailed during the season. This caused also a partial failure of the rice and small grain crops, and much destitution was the result. Efforts were however made by the Government to afford relief to the destitute sufferers by the distribution of rice and medicines; and private benevolence was also actively and liberally displayed for the same purpose.

63. It appears from the report of the principal civil medical officer that the number of admissions into the general hospitals of the island were fewer in 1868 than in the previous years, and that the rate of mortality was considerably diminished.

64. At the close of the year favourable accounts were received from all the Provinces, and the general public health was entirely restored.

Education.

65. The number of schools supported by Government on the 31st December last was 122, exclusive of two schools temporarily closed and one closed altogether.

66. This number shows an increase of fourteen schools as compared with the number in existence in the previous year, and an increase of 932 in the number of pupils in each school, with a proportionate increase of 767 in the average daily attendance.

67. Of the aided Schools the number has increased by one, with a proportionate increase of 129 pupils on the roll, and of 83 in the average daily attendance.

68. The expenditure on account of education as compared with 1867, shows an increase of 864*l.*, the total amount expended during 1868 being 16,166*l.*

69. The receipts in 1868, from fees, amounted to 2,616*l.*, being an increase of 233*l.* as compared with the sum received in 1869.

70. The returns from the different Missionary bodies show a decrease in the number of schools supported by them, but an increase in the number of pupils attending them. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	37	1,305
Church Missionary Society	40	1,577
Wesleyan do.	94	3,505
Presbyterians	1	16
Baptist Missionary Society	23	587
American do.	59	2,245
Roman Catholic do.	78	3,814
	332	13,049

71. The numbers in 1867 were 471 schools and 12,567 pupils.

72. The number of private schools in 1868 was 247, with an attendance of 5,746, showing a decrease as compared with 1867 of 26 schools, and an increase of 333 in the number of pupils.

73. I enclose a copy of the 25th Report of the School Commission, which gives an account of the Government schools from the 1st July, 1867, to the 31st December, 1868. This is the last Report of the School Commission. That body has now ceased to exist, having been superseded by the Director of Public Instruction, who arrived in Ceylon in February last. This Government has now under consideration arrangements for carrying out the new Educational scheme recommended by the Sub-Committee of the Legislative Council, and sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government. Enclosure 4.

74. Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a Table giving a statistical view of the progress of this Colony for the years 1821 to 1868 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1867 and 1868.

75. The Reports of the several Heads of Departments referred to in this Despatch are now being printed in the form of Administration Reports, to be laid before the Legislative Council. A complete copy will be forwarded to your Lordship, as soon as it is ready.

I have &c.,
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 1.

DECENNIAL RETURN of EXPORTS of Coffee, Cinnamon, Cocoanut Oil, and Coir, the produce of the Colony.

Customs, Colombo, May 11, 1869.

Years.	COFFEE.			CINNAMON.			COCOANUT OIL.			COIR.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity	Value.	Duty.	
	cwts.	£	£	lbs.	£	£	gals.	£	£	cwts.	£	£	£
1859	589,779	1,467,497	29,490	879,361	43,972	880	1,118,638	111,864	2,985	38,086	25,945	447	33,802
1860	620,132	1,574,033	31,007	675,156	33,758	675	1,549,089	154,909	3,890	36,616	24,864	458	36,030
1861	648,026	1,656,733	32,402	845,218	42,261	845	1,040,428	104,043	2,613	43,168	31,883	540	36,400
1862	605,178	1,445,284	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3,591	46,595	37,648	583	35,309
1863	828,587	2,126,222	41,429	734,038	36,702	734	1,878,585	187,858	4,718	51,785	39,103	647	47,528
1864	671,164	1,744,793	33,559	776,675	38,833	775	2,249,402	224,948	5,649	36,313	27,386	454	40,437
1865	927,440	2,343,532	46,373	850,973	42,549	852	1,176,784	120,678	2,955	41,378	31,637	516	50,696
1866	897,624	2,286,880	44,882	890,484	44,524	890	1,042,853	104,400	2,619	46,687	33,035	594	48,985
1867	943,592	2,430,536	47,180	1,017,750	50,887	1,018	1,345,485	134,548	3,379	49,675	34,446	621	52,198
1868	1,007,338	2,563,999	50,367	2,056,509	102,825	2,057	1,423,853	142,385	3,576	68,804	46,607	861	56,861
Total	7,738,860	19,639,509	386,948	9,601,639	480,085	9,602	14,254,648	1,428,586	35,975	459,107	332,554	5,721	438,246

W. D. WRIGHT,
Acting Principal Collector.

CEYLON.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 1.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including Specie and Bullion) from each Country, in each of the Years 1866, 1867, and 1868.

Customs, Colombo, May 11, 1869.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.									EXPORTS.								
	1866.			1867.			1868.			1866.			1867.			1868.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom -	1,390,686	12	5	1,350,311	19	11	1,264,470	2	2	2,385,126	9	10	2,556,188	9	8	2,793,312	10	10
Cape of Good Hope -	—			—			1,281	4	9	50	0	0	1,356	6	9	—		
Mauritius - -	29,921	9	6	18,006	13	5	6,941	1	0	25,735	0	6	6,517	17	6	70,240	13	10
Aden - - -	47	18	10	—			439	16	0	—			73	19	11	1,511	2	4
British Possessions in India - - -	2,746,439	18	1	2,595,259	12	10	2,454,189	8	4	920,577	12	0	797,174	4	2	788,442	10	9
Hong Kong - -	9,828	5	0	7,668	12	10	14,140	14	6	2,108	14	6	232	5	0	1,028	19	0
Australia - -	520,340	16	1	281,141	15	9	266,576	0	0	41,813	8	3	32,612	9	6	39,551	3	9
Gibraltar - - -	—			—			—			18,072	12	8	20,623	0	9	—		
France - - -	—			173	0	0	6,574	7	6	19,039	16	0	34,682	8	10	24,501	0	8
Buenos Ayres - -	198	6	0	—			—			—			—			—		
Suez - - -	74,377	15	6	43,434	9	5	181,872	19	10	73,283	15	7	10,952	7	9	6,155	19	9
Maldive Islands - -	29,788	17	1	44,531	1	6	26,914	1	2	4,255	9	3	9,074	5	1	6,578	13	5
French Possessions in India - - -	150,557	11	0	152,343	0	2	172,959	18	7	22,114	19	7	24,846	4	8	13,252	4	9
United States of America	8,860	0	0	7,297	6	10	6,817	12	8	73,675	7	0	33,945	8	10	37,431	6	2
Muscat - - -	12	0	0	—			—			—			—			—		
Bourbon - -	2	0	0	—			—			—			—			—		
Jeddah - - -	—			1,031	15	6	—			—			—			—		
Dutch Possessions in India - - -	—			3,139	8	6	—			600	6	10	1,945	5	0	910	0	0
China - - -	—			—			—			—			—			3,805	12	0
Total - £	4,961,061	9	6	4,504,338	16	8	4,403,177	6	6	3,586,453	12	0	3,530,224	13	5	3,786,721	17	3

W. D. WRIGHT,
Acting Principal Collector.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 1.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

PORTS IN THE ISLAND OF CEYLON.

NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS entered Inwards and cleared Outwards from and to each Country in each of the Years 1866, 1867, and 1868.

Customs, Colombo, May 11, 1869.

COUNTRIES.	ENTERED INWARDS.						CLEARED OUTWARDS.					
	1866.		1867.		1868.		1866.		1867.		1868.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom - -	115	61,255	110	65,313	156	89,323	113	54,201	113	61,441	142	74,676
British Possessions in India -	2,766	371,162	2,695	367,031	2,721	358,620	2,877	400,873	2,809	404,248	2,787	405,286
Cape of Good Hope - -	1	567	1	376	10	4,069	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mauritius - - - -	15	8,636	25	14,833	6	2,472	16	7,611	12	7,225	10	3,832
Hongkong - - -	42	46,413	43	48,864	39	51,489	42	47,078	38	44,819	43	54,859
Australia - - - -	34	19,816	23	16,485	26	15,894	18	10,782	18	12,690	18	13,518
Aden - - - -	6	2,489	4	1,837	19	8,139	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gibraltar - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	336	—	—
France - - - -	—	—	2	673	8	3,599	1	361	2	745	1	454
French Possessions in India -	171	13,431	175	13,465	187	14,626	139	11,227	119	9,839	96	7,788
Dutch Possessions in India -	—	—	1	190	—	—	12	6,571	14	8,137	8	4,719
Portuguese Possessions in India	—	—	1	226	—	—	—	—	1	226	—	—
United States of America -	2	1,578	2	1,974	3	1,791	6	2,052	3	1,687	3	1,649
Maldive Islands - -	44	4,715	50	6,262	41	4,224	40	6,025	32	3,165	29	2,843
Muscat Arabia - - -	2	773	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jeddah - - - -	—	—	1	218	1	638	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suez - - - -	40	51,772	38	52,057	38	58,434	39	51,962	37	52,403	40	59,849
Brazil - - - -	1	335	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bourbon - - - -	1	361	—	—	1	1,175	—	—	—	—	1	378
China - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	891
Labuan Borneo - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	925
Rio de Janeiro - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	279	—	—	—	—
Monte Video - - -	—	—	—	—	1	454	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - -	3,240	583,303	3,171	589,804	3,257	614,947	3,304	599,022	3,199	606,961	3,182	631,667

Compared with 1866.

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1868 -	3,257	614,947	3,182	631,667
1866 -	3,240	583,303	3,304	599,022
	Increase 17	Increase 31,644	Decrease 122	Increase 32,645

Compared with 1867.

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1868 -	3,257	614,947	3,182	631,667
1867 -	3,171	589,804	3,199	606,961
	Increase 86	Increase 25,143	Decrease 17	Increase 24,706

W. D. WRIGHT,
Acting Principal Collector.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 1.

EDUCATION.

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT* of the CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMISSION for the INSTRUCTION of the POPULATION of CEYLON—1867, 1868.

* The Appendices to this Report are not printed.

THE Central School Commission have the honour to submit to the Legislative Council their Report for the past eighteen months (July 1st, 1867, to December, 1868).

2. On the 31st December, 1867, there were 108 Government Schools in operation, which had on their rolls at that date 6,549 pupils, with an average attendance, during the year, of 5,000. This shows a decrease of 3 schools, and an increase of 655 pupils on the list, and of 404 in the average attendance as compared with 1866. The number of Government Schools in operation at this date is 121, with 7,414 pupils on the list, which, as compared with the figures for last year, shows an increase of 13 Schools and of 865 pupils.

Statistics of Education.

3. The percentage of scholars, who, at the close of the year 1867, had attended the same Government schools for periods varying from less than one year to more than five years, is as follows:—

Period of attendance.

Less than one year.	One year, and less than two years.	Two years, and less than three years.	Three years, and less than four years.	Four years, and less than five years.	Five years, and upwards.
43·41	23·27	14·18	8·39	4·77	5·80

4. The percentage of children of the different ages from "under five" to "over fifteen" in the different classes of schools, is shown in the following Table:—

Age of pupils.

Schools.	Under five years.	Between five and six years.	Between six and seven years.	Between seven and eight years.	Between eight and nine years.	Between nine and ten years.	Between ten and eleven years.	Between eleven and twelve years.	Between twelve and thirteen years.	Between thirteen and fourteen years.	Between fourteen and fifteen years.	Over fifteen years.
Colombo Academy - - -	—	—	·57	·86	2·01	3·73	4·02	5·17	10·34	15·22	11·49	46·55
Superior Schools - - -	—	—	·65	3·29	4·39	7·47	1·54	9·89	15·16	11·42	12·30	24·83
English Schools - -	·28	1·82	1·54	4·90	6·45	9·53	15·07	13·89	12·34	1·23	8·27	15·70
Mixed Schools - - -	·20	1·53	2·23	7·13	8·11	9·44	11·11	8·53	1·20	9·72	8·46	22·58
Vernacular Schools - -	·76	2·75	7·09	12·52	14·98	14·98	14·73	1·78	8·90	5·64	3·65	3·14
Superior Girls' Schools - -	2·63	8·50	8·79	9·67	14·36	11·43	13·19	11·73	8·21	4·39	3·22	3·81
Mixed Girls' Schools - -	3·34	12·44	12·44	14·35	9·09	9·56	10·52	13·39	7·17	3·82	1·91	1·91
Vernacular Girls' Schools - -	1·82	6·40	8·53	2·42	18·90	16·15	12·80	7·31	4·87	·91	1·21	·60
Total - - -	·72	2·83	4·98	9·58	11·12	11·78	12·96	1·23	9·77	7·57	6·01	12·38

5. The expenditure on account of Education during the year 1867 amounted to 15,301*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, showing an increase of 426*l.* 11*s.* $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ as compared with 1866, when the expenditure was 14,875*l.* 5*s.* $1\frac{3}{4}d.$

Increase of expenditure in 1867, as compared with 1866.

CEYLON.

Expenditure, 1863–1867.

6. The following Table will show the amount voted, and the amount expended, on account of Education during each of the last five years.

Years.	Voted.			Expended.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1863	15,306	8	0	14,520	3	7
1864	16,298	18	3	15,331	12	3¾
1865	17,389	3	9	14,673	13	1
1866	17,339	2	8	14,875	5	1¾
1867	17,802	0	8	15,301	16	3

Estimate for 1869.

7. The sum of 18,581*l.* 13*s.* was voted for the current year, and the Educational Estimate for 1869 amounts to 22,332*l.*

School Fees.

8. The amount realized by School fees in 1867 was 2,383*l.* 12*s.* 8½*d.*, to which must be added 77*l.* 16*s.*, being receipts on account of stationery; showing an increase in the receipts from schools in 1867, as compared with 1866, of 307*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and as compared with 1865, of 422*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*

Female Seminary.

9. Mrs. Gray, Principal of the Female Seminary, who had proceeded to England on a year's leave of absence, has returned to the Colony and resumed her duties.

Grants-in-aid.

10. The amount of grants made to private and other schools during the year 1867 is 830*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* The Wesleyan Mission Boys' Schools at Trincomalee has been added to the number of Grant-in-aid Schools.

New Schools.

11. Since the date of the last Report the following Schools have been opened:—a Boys' Mixed School at Hambantota; a Boys' Mixed School at Hanwella; a Boys' Mixed School at Walala; a Boys' Vernacular School at Udugampola; a Boys' Vernacular School at Miriswatta; a Boys' Vernacular School at Halpitiya; a Boys' Vernacular School at Tillanduwa; a Boys' Vernacular School at Godegamuwa; a Boys' Vernacular School at Katubadde; a Boys' Vernacular School at Hakmena; a Boys' Vernacular School at Dikwella; a Boys' Vernacular School at Uduwokka; a Vernacular Boys' School at Madihe; a Vernacular Girls' School at Pamunugama; a Vernacular Girls' School at Attidiya; a Vernacular Girls' School at Paliyagoda; a Vernacular Girls' School at Paremulla. The following Schools have been temporarily closed:—the Mixed Boys' School at Nawalapitiya; the Mixed Boys' School at Akuramboda; the Mixed Boys' School at Mádampe; the Mixed Boys' School at Katugastota. The following Schools have been re-opened:—the Mixed Boys' School at Puttalam; the Girls' Mixed School at Mátale; the Boys' Mixed School at Gampola.

Turnour Prize.

12. There were three Candidates for the Turnour Prize of 1867. The prize was awarded to Alexander de Silva. The schedule of marks and the papers set to the Candidates will be found in the Appendix.

Local Examination.

13. The result of the Sixth Local Examination, held under the Government notification of the 26th November, 1861, will also be found in the Appendix.

Calcutta University.

14. The result of the last Examination at Queen's College and Colombo Academy in connection with the Calcutta University, was as follows:—

Passed First Examination in Arts.

J. J. Cassie Chetty	Second Division.
H. De Silva Wejeyesekere	Third „

Passed Entrance Examination.

P. Arnasalem	First Division.
C. E. Keyt	Second Division.
E. R. Anthonisz	„ „
P. F. Solomons	„ „
C. T. Van Cuylenburg	„ „
C. T. Perera	„ „
E. S. De Livera	Third Division.
S. Fernando	„ „
D. A. Dissenaike	„ „
J. N. Tillekeratne	„ „

Inspection.

15. The Inspector's Reports, with the accompanying Tables, gives every information as to the state of the Central, English and Mixed Schools in all the Provinces.

16. Mr. Sendall, Inspector of Schools, who was absent in England on leave, has

returned to the Island and resumed his duties, and Mr. Steward, Second Master of Queen's College, who was acting for Mr. Sendall, has proceeded to England on a year's leave of absence, his place being supplied by Mr. Britto, a B.A. of the Calcutta University and a former pupil of Queen's College. CEYLON.

17. The thanks of the Commission are due to the Sub-Committees of Kandy, Galle, and other stations, and to several official and private superintendents, for their valuable aid in reference to schools in which they have respectively interested themselves.

18. Financial and Statistical Returns, similar to those appended to the last Report, will be found in the Appendices.

19. As the early arrival of the Director of Education, appointed in accordance with the recommendation of the legislative Council, is expected, this is the last Report of the School Commission. The present members of the Commission do not feel it necessary to give a detailed account of the endeavours of their predecessors or themselves to promote the instruction of the people of Ceylon; but, in order to show that they have employed, not unsuccessfully, the means placed at their disposal, they have the honour to present a Comparative Statement of the statistics of Government Schools at the date of the first appointment of the Commission and at the present time.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of Government and Aided Schools, the amount of Fees collected, and the amount Expended, on account of Education in 1840 and 1867–68.

	Government Boys' Schools.							Government Girls' Schools.					Grant-in-aid Schools.		Total number of Government and Aided Schools.	Total number of Pupils on List.	Amount of Fees collected.	Expenditure.
	Colombo Academy.	Central Schools.	English Schools.	Mixed Schools.	Vernacular Schools.	Total number of Boys' Schools.	Total number of Pupils on the list.	Superior.	Mixed.	Vernacular.	Total number of Girls' Schools.	Total number of Girls' on the list.	Total number of Grant-in-aid Schools.	Total number of Pupils on the list of Grant Schools.				
1840	1	0	3	29	0	33	1,912	0	5	0	5	162	0	0	38	2,074	42 14 10	2,645 4 6¼
1867–68	1	2	9	33	52	97	6,333	6	9	12	27	1,081	18	1,281	142	8,695	2,383 12 8½	15,301 16 3
Increase	0	2	6	4	52	64	4,421	6	4	12	22	919	18	1,281	104	6,621	2,340 17 10½	12,656 11 8¾

20. In conclusion, the School Commission express their sincere hope that the labours of their successor may lead to a great extension and improvement in public education.

WILLIAM CHAS. GIBSON,
President.
J. BROOKE H. BAILEY,
Secretary.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SIR R. G. MACDONNELL, C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 838.)

MY LORD, Government House, Hong Kong, December 28, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for 1868, and regret that although I received that document so far back as the end of August, circumstances beyond my control, including illness and extreme pressure of business, have prevented my drawing up such a report of the Colony's present position and such an analysis of the events and transactions affecting it during 1868, as I had hoped to complete before this.

I can no longer, however, detain the Blue Book, and therefore, forward it in the hope that I may be able to send an explanatory Despatch in time to be printed for circulation with some of the more important Returns appended to it.

As elucidating the financial position of the Colony I transmit the statement which I laid before the Legislative Council last September, as it deals with an unusual variety of subjects interesting locally. It is right, however, to remark that since framing that Enclosure.

HONG KONG. financial statement I have received instructions from your Lorpship greatly limiting the amount to which the special licence fund is available for improving the Police Force.

On the whole I see reason for congratulation that during a period of unexampled commercial depression in China, this Colony has managed, so far as its public finances are concerned, to emerge from a state of insolvency to one of assured stability, without leaving a single claim unsatisfied or borrowing a fraction from the proceeds unavoidably accruing from the Gaming Licences.

The Police Force has greatly improved; crime has diminished, and the health of the military and civilians during 1868 and 1869 has been excellent, whilst the total shipping entered and cleared amounting to 67,219 vessels, of nearly five millions and a-half tons, manned by 918,000 seamen, still attests satisfactorily the importance of Hong Kong as the great emporium of Eastern commerce.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,

Governor.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Enclosure in No. 2.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1869, by His Excellency SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL, C.B.

September 17, 1869.

1. Various circumstances, but principally the illness and subsequent departure of the Auditor-General, Mr. Rennie, caused the supplemental estimates for last year to be so long delayed, that I find myself now laying them before you simultaneously with the estimates for 1870. Probably no immediate disadvantage attends this exceptional delay for once. On the contrary, you may perhaps feel enabled thereby to take a more complete survey of the whole financial position of the Colony by noting at the same time the actual results of the previous year's expenditure, and the provision necessary for the requirements of the ensuing year.

2. The supplemental sum actually required to defray the Government expenses during 1868 is only $37,191. Of that sum several items, such as the cost of the fire brigade and the passage allowances of the mint officials, had their origin in necessities wholly arising subsequent to framing the estimates for 1868, and when it was not possible, or at least would have been very inconvenient, to have summoned you to meet merely to pass a vote for expenses as to which there could be no difference of opinion.

3. On the other hand you will find that there was a large saving of $77,985 in the actual total expenditure of 1868, including the $37,000 now to be voted, because that expenditure was only $991,310, whereas it had been estimated to amount to $1,069,296. You must remember, however, that the sums received from gaming licences in 1868 appeared on the estimates of that year. That is no longer the case now, and therefore the estimated receipts and expenditure of 1868 were proportionally increased.

4. I have further to call your attention to the fact that recent alterations in previous instructions enable me to present to you supplementary estimates which ask simply a vote for the sums really expended in excess of your authority. Formerly none of the savings in the estimates for establishments were considered applicable to any items of service "exclusive of establishments." The complications caused thereby belong now to the past, and I shall only illustrate the unintelligible basis on which supplemental estimates were formerly framed by stating that although $37,000 is the total excess for which I seek your authority, the Colonial Secretary computes that under the old system I should have been obliged to ask apparently for $286,049 to cover that excess. Now, however, the savings under the different votes are made applicable to the general purposes of the particular head of service under which such items were classified, and the excess alone of an entire department, in all its branches, is placed on the supplementary estimates. At the same time, in the Table which accompanies these estimates, is afforded full explanation of the savings accrued in each case, and also of the manner in which they have been applied.

5. Turning now to the estimates for 1870, you will find that although they propose nothing very remarkable, or which appears to invite special attention, they possess unusual interest as showing that, after many difficulties, a tolerably sound financial state has been attained, because it is one which gives fair promise of permanence. No fleeting surplus is shown by disposal of the Colony's capital, viz., its land—the receipts from

licensed play houses do not appear as part of the revenue—and yet the permanent means of the Colony are made to meet all its liabilities and provide fairly, though not extravagantly, for the general demands of a community in a state of progressive improvement.

6. So recently as 1867, the estimated surplus of the Colony's assets over its liabilities amounted only to $24,000, whilst of those, $60,000 were unavailable coins, which no creditor could have been compelled to accept, so that practically the Colony was bankrupt. The worst feature, however, of its financial position then, was not so much the diminishing surplus, as the fact that the Colony had been steadily dropping into this insolvent state from a condition of comparative affluence. Thus at the beginning of 1865, it possessed a *bonâ fide* surplus of $298,000; at the beginning of 1866, one of only $184,000; and at the commencement of 1867, an imaginary surplus of $24,000, but practically a deficiency of nearly $30,000.

7. It must be remembered also that in 1866, when I arrived, I found the expenditure of the Colony increasing in proportion as its income was diminishing—the worst of all conditions whether for states or individuals. So much was this the case that its actual expenditure in 1865 exceeded its revenue by $94,361, and in 1866 by $167,877. The expenditure in 1867, however, was then decreased at once from $936,954 in the previous year, to $730,916, but not without leaving the military contribution in arrear. At the same time the revenue was permanently raised by means of the Stamp Ordinance, which, however, did not come into operation till late in 1867, and thus the Colony began to right itself slowly; its expenditure in 1867 being $128,584 within its revenue, and in 1868, $142,794, though in the latter year all arrears of the military contribution were paid off.

8. Probably many suppose these results could only have been produced by using the fees received from the police measure of licensing gambling houses under certain regulations. This, however, is altogether a mistake. The Colony has recovered from its difficulties, paid its current expenses, and discharged all its heavy liabilities without using for those purposes one cent of the licence fees in question. At the same time I look doubtfully on the estimate of $120,000 as excess of assets over liabilities at the end of this year. I also question the excess of assets put down for the end of 1870, viz., $111,000. I recommend you not to count on more than $30,000 *really available* surplus assets at the latter period.

9. It is undeniable, and I see no reason to regret it, that much assistance in other ways, as we shall presently find, has been derived by the Colony indirectly from those licence fees. It is, however, equally true that all its previous debts were paid, and its ordinary current expenditure met, as well as considerable public works carried on out of its own permanent revenue. This would appear more clearly, if I could lay before you the Colony's account with the special fund, as for brevity it may be styled. I am, therefore, sorry I cannot publish it as its details are still under consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Full information, however, on the subject is accessible to individual members of Council. You will find, however, from the estimate of the Colony's liabilities at the end of 1868, that amongst the liabilities of the Colony is inserted an amount due to the special fund of $160,065. At the end of the current year there will probably be an amount due to it of $140,000. The difference, therefore, between the latter sum and the $317,807, estimated total receipts of the licences from September, 1867, to the end of this year, would indicate the amount appropriated from that fund during more than two years and a-quarter, and that amount is $177,087.

10. Let us, however, inquire how that money has been expended. You will not find it appropriated to any selfish outlay on objects calculated to diminish the burthens or promote the convenience of the foreign residents. Expenses which should be borne by the ordinary revenue of the Colony continue to be so borne, and I may inform you that it is not merely the wish, but the positive order of Her Majesty's Government that no part of the special fund be expended in relieving you of the taxation entailed by duties which every civilized community is bound to discharge.

11. The appropriation of any part of that fund has therefore been limited: 1st, to purposes auxiliary to the police object for which the licensing system was instituted, and which alone could justify such an experiment, viz., the suppression of crime, and more especially crime such as was formerly generated by frequent contact of the ignorant and needy with the criminals of the Colony in illegal gambling haunts, where the former were tempted to join in schemes for piracies, burglaries, and theft. It has, therefore, been suggested that improvements in the constitution of the police, whether by land or water, and in all appliances for detection of crime, which could not have been undertaken by the unaided ordinary revenue of the Colony, might on that principle be temporarily borne by the special fund. Thus the cost of the Colonial vessels, which patrol the waters of the Colony, and whose utility becomes more apparent

HONG KONG.

by every day's experience, is at present borne by the special fund. The erection of a telegraph round the island, and of additional police and telegraph stations—to complete the guarded circuit so effectually as to render improbable future landings of such parties as attacked Sowkewan on the 18th of April last—may be similarly regarded as a reasonable charge on the fund for the suppression of crime.

12. Nevertheless, to prevent any diminution of the police-rates being effected by an unfair resort to the special fund, it has also been suggested that the Colony should always provide from its ordinary revenue the means of defraying the highest expenditure on its police incurred in any year preceding the licence system. That year was 1866, and the actual expenditure then on the Colonial police was in round numbers $120,000, an amount ascertained after deducting from the sum charged against police, several items improperly entered under that head—as, for example, lighting street lamps, $20,000, an item now placed under "miscellaneous." Therefore, $120,000 is the least sum for police which the Colony is bound to find from its own resources. At the same time, to promote police protection, and prevent an inconvenient accumulation of the licence fund, expenditure in excess of that amount, if approved by the Secretary of State, may be temporarily borne by the special fund.

13. 2ndly.—You may assume that no application of the licence fund for any but the police purposes, already explained, will be permitted unless for the special benefit and improvement, physically, or morally of the Chinese population. The Council is aware that none but persons of Chinese or Malay origin, and that no females of any nation whatever, are now admitted into the licensed houses, whilst the licence fees have been proportionally reduced so as to compensate for such restrictions. Even foreign travellers are not permitted to visit the houses. The Chinese alone frequent them. Therefore, the fees, if used at all—and it would not be easy to justify a perpetual and unmeaning accumulation of them—ought apparently to be used only for purposes auxiliary to the original object of the experiment, viz., suppression of crime, or the special benefit of the race by whose peculiar infirmity that experiment was first necessitated and is now maintained.

14. The purposes, therefore, to which a portion of the special fund has been or may be devoted, are all in accordance with the above principles. Thus, extended means of education are afforded to the Chinese, such as new school-houses, a lecture-room at the central hall, apparatus for conducting experiments calculated to develop an interest in practical and scientific knowledge, especially of a kind applicable to manufactures. Assistance likewise in maintaining that useful corps, the Chinese watchmen, has been given, and more is promised; though, in proportion as it is assisted from without, the Chinese subscriptions for its support decline, so that ultimately I fear the corps must be dissolved, at least for a time. I might also enumerate an extended classification of interpreters, and the employment, on a different system, of abler and better paid men in that capacity, so as to meet a hardship long complained of by the native population in connection with our courts; a large contribution ($15,000) to the erection of the Chinese Hospital under Chinese management (but with due precautions); and a reimbursement to the Harbour Master's Department for loss of revenue by abatement of fees hitherto exacted from Chinese vessels only. Even the expense of special sanitary improvements in the physical condition of the inhabitants of the Chinese quarter of the city, which might otherwise have been indefinitely postponed, will be facilitated by contributions from the same source.

15. In all those particulars, however, care is taken that the special fund shall contribute nothing, except for items over and above the Colony's ordinary previous expenditure, for which expenditure Her Majesty's Government is resolved that it shall raise an adequate local revenue. Thus, under the head of education, you will perceive that the expenditure having been increased, the difference only between the expenditure in 1866, and that contemplated for 1870, viz., $4,448, is to be taken from the special fund, a plan similar to that followed in the police estimates.

16. All these contributions to useful purposes entail a large expenditure. Nevertheless, at the end of the current year, there will be more than $140,000 still remaining to the credit of the special fund, which will again commence rapidly to accumulate, unless the licence fees be considerably diminished, a policy which it would be difficult to justify, as it could only benefit the licensees.

17. Now, it is evident that no expenditure, so effective as that adverted to for suppression of crime, and the improvement, physical and moral, of the large population in our midst, can take place without reacting beneficially on this community generally. Therefore, it may be said that the licensing system, by increasing the means of Government to effect good, directly benefits the Colony. I leave, however, to others, if

any be still so inclined, to argue that such resulting advantage ought to make us abandon a policy which has effected a remarkable diminution of crime and corruption, and this, moreover, at a time when it has been raised from the level of mere experiment to that of successful legislation. Let us hope, therefore, that different views are now entertained by former opponents of the measure. The motives of many deserved and met general sympathy, whilst personally I have always regretted that none of them were able to suggest some policy more in harmony with their own opinions, and yet equally effective for police purposes. In the interim, however, they could not reasonably have expected me to abandon substantial results for theories which, however applicable elsewhere, as I readily admit them to be, seemed wholly out of place here under the circumstances.

18. I have thus explained the position of the Colony towards the special fund, so far as I can explain a subject of which many details are still unsettled, and which you must regard as liable to re-arrangement and modification. The council, moreover, must always regard that fund as one which may at any moment disappear. You should, therefore, distinctly bear in mind that, except for improving the police force, and benefiting the Chinese community, as explained above, that fund is unavailable. Even those indirect benefits must cease in the event of a change of instructions from Her Majesty's Government or the discovery of some effective substitute for the licensing system.

19. Hence, it is all the more desirable that you should keenly scrutinize the state of your finances, and see whether any dimunition of expenditure, either on your Establishments or otherwise, can be effected without detriment to the Public Service, so that you may gradually lessen your permament annual charges, and release a portion of your revenue now absorbed thereby.

20. I am aware that such economies seem easiest to those who know least of the work and duties of the various Departments. For example, a reformer of our police would, on inquiry, be probably surprised to find that in the day time 32 beats have to be patrolled, and the men relieved at the end of each six hours, and that 92 beats at night have to be similarly manned and relieved; whilst from five to nine boats and their crews are kept always on duty—and relieved night and day, at stated periods—in the harbour; as also that a gaol guard of 23 has to be daily provided, and patrols furnished along a distance of 10 miles. To all these must be added special duties, which require daily some 50 men, independent of the out-stations beyond the city, which must likewise be guarded and patrolled. He would also have to make an allowance for men in hospital; and from the severity of the duty, they number 50 per cent. more in the police, at present, than in the military.

21. Such a reformer would thus learn how it is that a necessity for meeting numerous duties entails a corresponding necessity for paying a numerous force, and that no mere improvement in its quality can dispense with the primary want of many men to do duty in many different places at the same time.

22. So far from the superintendent of police considering the police sufficient in numbers, he complained to me last May that at night, "in the central part of the town, 31 men had to perform the duty laid down in the 'Section Book' for 61," and that so few constables could be spared for the outlying villages "that adequate daily explorations of the adjacent hills were impossible." The estimates before you, therefore, propose an increase as well in number as in quality; provision being made for a total of 717 instead of 643, whilst the number of Europeans will be increased from 112 to 146, and the expenditure from $183,000 to $202,000. That sum, however, does not include the expense of gratuities and passages for 30 men from England, who if procurable at all, which is very doubtful, will cost the colony 3,000*l.* before they have done an hour's duty.

23. With the proposed telegraphs, and when the additional out-stations now building are completed, it may perhaps be found that a smaller force can do the duty. I nevertheless see little prospect of your ever having a police force at once effective and cheap. I know no place where it would be so difficult to realize such an anticipation as Hong Kong. This is especially the case because the influx of criminals from the adjoining turbulent provinces, which differ entirely in the character of their population from that of the Natives of the Straits or Shanghai, is regulated by circumstances beyond your control, and the course of which you can only watch, whilst keeping yourselves ever on the alert and the defensive, as though in a normal state of siege.

24. Moreover, at this distance from England and in this climate, temperance and honesty in Europeans command an exorbitant premium, and unluckily when they have been contracted for and imported, too often disappear, whilst, do what you will, whether you recruit in Europe or in India, you cannot procure a force homogeneous and speaking the requisite languages. You can only put it together bit by bit, and gradually utilize

it by patience and by holding out to each individual substantial inducements and facilities to improve. This has been done and I have reason to be satisfied with the progress made and being made.

25. In proportion, however, as you find less chance of diminishing your police expenditure, owing to the peculiar geographical position and exceptional circumstances of the Colony, I would be glad that you should, as I have already said, turn your attention to effecting economy in other departments. I am aware of the difficulty attending attempts to accomplish departmental retrenchment without impairing efficiency. Lord Lawrence has recently described how he commenced his late administration, hoping and resolved to effect great retrenchment in all the Indian departments, and how he was forced to leave them largely increased. I mention this not to discourage, but to prevent undue expectations. As yet, I have only seen my way doubtfully to suggesting the eventual amalgamation of most of the duties of the Treasury and Audit Office, an experiment which may be said to be now in its first stage, and the eventual saving from which may amount to upwards of $6,000 annually. Nevertheless, I think an equal saving can ere long be effected in other minor details, which, however, I have not yet ventured to put on the estimates, preferring to feel my way first. My chief wish at present is to urge on you the necessity of keeping the principle of economy in view, when possible, without impairing efficiency.

26. To facilitate your labours the form of the estimates now before you has been improved, by keeping all the expenses of each department together instead of spreading them, as formerly, over different and totally unconnected pages. Because some departmental expenses are for "establishments" and others are "exclusive of establishments," and others again for "rent," or "transport," I see no reason why such expenses should not be grouped together. Such an arrangement, whilst more symmetrical and clear, does not interfere, as you will find, with the distinct classification of the details so grouped.

27. In the summary you will see the totals of the cost of all the departments collectively and separately, as proposed for next year, side by side with the expenses incurred for the same during the past year. You will there see that the total expenditure of last year amounted to $991,311, whereas the vote proposed for next year is nearly $200,000 less—or $791,882. This diminution is, in a great measure, owing to the fact of the large arrears of the military contribution having been paid last year, so that there is about $114,000 less to provide on that service alone.

28. Improved arrangements of your estimates will probably prevent many mistakes. Few persons, and certainly not those to whom it would be inconvenient that accurate information opposed to their theories and objects should be forced on them, take much trouble in sifting such dry details. It must also be admitted that it was not easy formerly to understand the annual estimates. Thus in the Harbour Master's Department, there were no means of knowing accurately the cost of the gunpowder depôt, a concern which accidentally is superintended by the Harbour Master, but which has little connection with his special duties as such. You can, however, now see that, independent of the sum necessary to reserve for purchase of a new hulk hereafter, the annual cost of the gunpowder depôt is $3,928. On the other hand, if any one were to ask how much the office of Harbour Master, properly so-called, costs the colony, it would be impossible to say, because you cannot divide the $21,272 alloted to the department so as to distinguish the cost of the ordinary duties of the office from others even more important and onerous which devolve on him for suppression of piracy and crime under the Harbour and Coasts Ordinance. The latter involve the examination, visiting, registration, and general superintendence of about 36,000 junks annually, and this in a colony where each year 5 millions of tons of shipping, manned by 800,000 sailors, arrive and depart.

29. In a similar manner it may be said that the establishment of the Postmaster-General has increased largely from a total expenditure in 1868 of $32,088 last year, to an estimated expenditure of $41,112 for 1870. New duties entail fresh expenses, and Her Majesty's Government having imposed on this the superintendence of the various postal stations at the ports in China and Japan, there is now an expenditure of about $10,560 in salaries, rent, and allowances at the ports, instead of about $4,000 formerly. It is true the Colony receives from the British Government an annual reimbursement in aid, of $6,000, and an increased profit on letters, which however has not averaged more than $500. The bargain, therefore, has not been a good one, especially if you have often to incur such an outlay as that of paying $10,000 to build a post-office at Japan.

30. You will also find that a sum of $6,744 is expended by the Government on marine sorters employed on board the various mail steamers from Singapore here and hence to

Shanghai. Now, if the public wish the luxury of an early and sure delivery of their letters, I presume they expect to find the charge included in the estimates. It nevertheless swells the cost of the post-office and may possibly furnish scope for various judicious remarks as to the folly of maintaining such an unwieldy establishment. Now, if you really think this luxury useless and extravagant, you have only to say so and I shall strike it from the estimates. If, however, you think it may reasonably be maintained, and that nearly $7,000 is thus wisely expended every year to promote general convenience and the interests of merchants specially, I count on your influence with the latter to abolish the present perverse usage of sending clandestinely large packages of letters by the very mail steamers which are actually carrying marine sorters, at great expense, to arrange and facilitate the delivery of such correspondence without any extra charge.

31. Nevertheless, in a Council where, practically, I assert there is the most substantial liberty of suggestion, speech, and action, and where it has always been the anxious desire of the Executive to encourage the free interchange of thought for the improvement of such Legislation as may be proposed, I do not think it necessary to go seriatim through all the establishments or items now offered for consideration. You have had copies of the estimates supplied to you beforehand, and no doubt your own experience is sufficiently suggestive.

32. In reference to Public Works, however, as being the branch of expenditure in which the Executive is most responsible because its greatest power of initiation and "veto" lies there, I have to call your attention to the fact that in reality circumstances have greatly narrowed the margin of choice in that direction. You will observe that out of $137,000 estimated for Works and Buildings, no less than $98,000 are required for completion of the reservoir at Pokfoolum. The original estimate for that work by which the Government was induced to undertake it at all, was $100,000, whereas it now appears that it will cost double—whilst, as it is half completed, you have no option but to proceed with the work. Its whole history, however, has been most discouraging, as showing how heavily, even when attempting the most useful and necessary objects, the Colony can lose by the occasional incompetence of its employés, and how seldom the most obvious deficiencies of such persons can restrain them from projecting schemes beyond their strength. I only regret that the work had been proposed and launched before my arrival here.

33. It is true that suggestions by an eminent engineer in England have added to the cost of the work whilst in progress. Those suggestions, however, were few, as indeed the most eminent professional man could suggest little as to a scheme, whose general propriety and fitness, depended mainly on circumstances not before him. The most costly change was the substitution of cement for ordinary mortar, and if the change was essential, I see no reason why that point should have escaped attention here.

34. Be that as it may, the large sum of $100,000, and possibly much more, being required to finish what you were led to believe would have been completed without such additional expense, it would be useless to discuss at present projects for either a new Court House or a new Civil Hospital. The former building I hope can easily be made to serve the purposes of the Colony for several years yet, though the same cannot be said of the Civil Hospital.

35. For "Roads, Streets, and Bridges," the sum of $41,000 is put down, including the item of $15,000, to be expended in 1870, on account of the continuation of the Upper Road to the gap above the Race Course. This item has now appeared for four consecutive years on the estimates as laid before you by the Government, but has hitherto been obliged to give way to some more pressing claim. Now, however, as all differences between the Colony and the Military concerning the ground through which part of the road would pass are at an end, and as, moreover, the inconvenience of the city's possessing only one mode of ingress and escape to the eastward, has, during the last twelve months, become more obvious than formerly, I think this useful and possibly reproductive work has some chance of being at last commenced.

36. I have, however, no desire to press it specially against your opinion if unfavourable, for if you maintain the public credit by ensuring a sufficient revenue to meet all reasonable duties, I hope you will not suppose the Government has any pet immutable scheme for appropriation of the disposable revenue. The duty of the Executive, it is true, necessitates the initiation of all expenditure, but, as you are aware, it is and has been my desire to found such proposals, as far as possible, on some basis which I may have had previous reason to consider in harmony with our common wish and duty.

LABUAN.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor POPE HENNESSY to The Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.
(No. 6.)

MY LORD, Government House, Labuan, January 25, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Blue Book for 1868. The Colonial Secretary would have completed it some months ago, but for the delay that took place in closing the accounts of the late Treasurer.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. On my arrival in Labuan in November, 1867, I found the officer who had been left in temporary charge of the Government had framed and transmitted home the estimates for 1868. In doing so he took a gloomy view of the finances of the Colony, and asked for an increase in the Parliamentary Grant. I also found that other members of the Legislative Council shared his views as to the unpromising state of the revenue.

3. No doubt the impending bankruptcy of the late Coal Company was the main cause of the despondent tone of my chief officials. However, in reporting in February, 1868, on this want of faith in the Colony, I was happy to be able to mention that it was confined to a small class, and that the industrious and active part of the community—consisting mainly of Chinese traders—entertained a totally different opinion as to the future of Labuan. Some of the Chinese merchants here are men of great shrewdness and common sense. During the unbroken history of commercial loss at the colliery, and of annual deficits in the Treasury chest, the Chinese traders maintained a steady course of prosperity. I did not hesitate, therefore, to look to them for information and advice. They spoke with diffidence, for they were unaccustomed to official notice, but the hints they gave me were thoroughly practical, and enabled me to take immediate steps for protecting and considerably increasing the coasting trade. The total value of the imports and exports of Labuan for 1867 was 235,429*l.* In 1868 this rose to 433,578*l.* In neither year did the value of the coal exported reach 10,000*l.*, so that the trade which is in the hands of the Chinese and natives accounted for nearly the whole of the commercial movement of the Colony. The growth of the trade, and the protection promised to the Chinese, caused an influx of settlers, and a consequent increase in the consumption of excisable articles.

4. I was therefore able to report with confidence in my Despatch No. 10, of February 16, 1868, that Labuan could speedily be made self-supporting, and this result has now been accomplished without a single murmur of discontent from the local tax-payer.

5. The total expenditure of the Colony, from its establishment in 1848 to the year 1868 inclusive, has been about 136,000*l.* The annual drafts on the Imperial Treasury have amounted during the same period to about 100,000*l.*, and the residue has been made up by the local revenue.

6. During the first ten years of the Colony the aggregate of the annual Parliamentary Grants amounted to about 45,000*l.*, and in the succeeding eleven years, the total Parliamentary Grants amounted to 55,000*l.* In the first period, owing to the good management of Governor Scott, the grant was at one time reduced to 1,000*l.* In the second period it began again to rise until it was checked by the judicious economy of Governor Callaghan, who brought it down to 2,183*l.* The last Parliamentary Grant was given on the estimates of the gentleman who had charge of the Colony immediately before my arrival, and amounted to 3,500*l.* The average annual grant voted by the House of Commons from 1848 to 1868 was about 4,800*l.*

7. At the end of the year 1868, instead of the usual deficit, I was able, by increasing the revenue and reducing the expenditure, to secure a balance of 3,335*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*, so that a Parliamentary Grant became unnecessary. Since that time the finances have gone on steadily improving. The annual surplus is increasing, and whilst laying by a safe balance (a sum equal to 30 per cent. of the revenue), I have abolished the vexatious land tax of 1862, and the more recent taxes on salt and on gambier. In spite of this reduction of taxation, I have been able to give substantial rewards to the more deserving officials. I have increased the salary of the Surveyor-General, Mr. Howard, from 300*l.* to 500*l.* a-year. The salaries of the Treasurer, of the Colonial Secretary, of the gaoler, and of some minor officials, have also been increased; and I have also appropriated a few dollars a month to a new office—that of Public Vaccinator.

LABUAN.

8. In addition to this, the Colony is now able to contribute a small sum (1,000*l.* a-year) to the Imperial Exchequer in aid of the military expenditure.

9. Whilst these financial changes were being made, I took the responsibility of beginning some new works of absolute necessity.

10. I found that it was the practice in Labuan to treat the destitute sick as if they were criminals. In the absence of any civil hospital they were always sent to prison. The following memorandum was made, in the early part of 1868, by Mr. Warren, the gaoler, in reply to an inquiry of mine:—"Sick people are regularly committed and sent "into prison for treatment, in general for one month, but in some cases for two or three "months. Sometimes they are further detained by order of the Colonial Surgeon. "They wear prison-clothes, and use prison-bedding. They receive full rations, as the "able-bodied convicts, besides extras as hospital comforts, by order of the Colonial "Surgeon. They occupy the prison cells, which are only adapted for prisoners."

It was therefore necessary to establish at once a civil hospital, and it has been in full operation for the last two years. The Government provided the building, which stands on a high cliff close to the sea. The walls are of wood, raised on substantial brick pillars, and the roof is tiled. The local community provide, by voluntary subscriptions, for the payment of a medical officer, and for the other current expenses. In addition to the destitute poor, officers and sailors from Her Majesty's ships, and of late some soldiers from the military hospital, are treated in it.

I also found it necessary to build a public market in the town of Victoria, and to establish a police-station half-way on the road to the coal mines. Latrines, on the dry conservancy system, were also constructed at the barracks. The state of the roads, and the general drainage of this end of the Colony, was found to be so bad that for the last eighteen months Mr. Howard has kept a large number of convicts constantly employed at road-making and draining.

11. The mode in which the finances were got into a healthy condition, so as to admit of this extra expenditure on works of necessity, and yet leave a surplus, has been described in my despatches sending the estimates for the last two years. I found the convict establishments a heavy source of expenditure. It is now a source of revenue. The employment on the public works of gangs of Malays who were paid high wages was another heavy source of expenditure. The Chinese convicts that were sent from Singapore by Governor Sir H. St. G. Ord, have been substituted for the Malays. They are of course cheaper, and they are found to be more efficient. Well-conducted convicts have been substituted for paid orderlies; and a permanent saving has been made in the draft cattle establishment. Thus a considerable reduction of expenditure has been effected, with an increased capacity for work in every branch of the Surveyor-General's Department. On the other hand, I have made fiscal changes which have more than doubled the revenue.

12. Since the time of Sir James Brooke, the first Governor, no change appears to have been made in the system of taxation, except the imposition of the land-tax in 1862. Before 1868, there were only three revenue farms—opium, spirits, and ganja. Within the last two years, Her Majesty's Government sanctioned the following new sources of revenue,—a tobacco farm, a salt farm, a gambier farm, a market farm, and a pawn farm.

13. I was able to increase the value of the opium farm without affecting the consumer, by permitting the farmer to pay the monthly rental on the 25th, instead of on the 1st of each month and by giving him the fines and forfeitures. By a similar regulation, and by increasing the excise on spirits and wine, the spirit farm rose in value.

14. The improvement in the revenue derived from the excise farms may be seen from the following Table:—

Total monthly rentals for which the farms were sold in

1867.	1868.	1869.
$811	$1,485	$1,814

In 1867, the spirit farm sold for $80 a month; now it is sold for $350 a month. The opium farm, which sold for $730 a month in 1867, now sells for $1,000 a month. The tobacco farm, which sold when I first established it for $163 a month, is now sold for $260 a month. I was offered $240 a month for the salt farm, and $25 for the gambier farm, but as the revenue without these farms exceeds the expenditure, I have given them up. On the whole, the annual value of the revenue farms has risen from $9,732 in 1867, to $21,768 in the present year.

15. The minor sources of local revenue, such as the rents of land, and the contribution

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from the coal company for the hire of convict labour, have all increased with the general prosperity of the Colony.

16. The general result of these financial changes, as exhibited in the estimates for the current year, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Local revenue for 1870	7,361	10	0
Balance from last year	3,283	14	7
Total sum available for the expenses of the Colonial Government in 1870	£10,645	4	7
Colonial expenditure for 1870	6,727	5	0
Military contribution	1,000	0	0
	7,727	5	0
Probable balance at the end of 1870	£2,917	19	7

In these figures no account is taken of the royalty on coal. In the year 1871, however, the annual rent of 1,000*l.* under the new lease will begin to be payable, and this fresh source of permanent revenue will, no doubt, enable the Government to extend the road-making and other useful works now in operation.

Land Sales.

17. Owing to the Radyan clearings and to the new roads, a good deal of valuable land is now ready for sale. The unappropriated Crown lands, both cleared and jungle, cannot be much less than twenty thousand acres.

18. In endeavouring to put the revenue of the Colony into a permanently sound state, I have not thought it prudent to press the land sales. The Crown lands may be said to constitute a part of the capital of the Colony, and I am not disposed to regard as land revenue anything beyond the annual rents and the natural increase in the value of land from year to year, as shown by the voluntary demand for lots and the rise in price.

19. No land has, therefore, been put up for sale unless the lots were specially applied for. Accordingly, Mr. Howard has only sold thirteen town lots and twenty-three country lots, making a total of 411⅔ acres. The total sum realised by these sales was $2,126·53. All these lots, and especially those in the country districts, fetched much higher prices than were ever obtained before at a land sale in Labuan—$20. From the Surveyor-General's papers, I extract the following information, as to some of the purchasers at the sale of Crown lands:—

Ten town lots were purchased by Wong Attoy, a Chinese trader. He has a large brick house and shop in Victoria, a fine estate in the Rancha Rancha district, and a shop in Lubok Tamiang (the village near the coal mines). He is also a partner in the ship now trading between Hong Kong and Labuan. He is one of the revenue farmers. Two town lots were purchased by Tan Kim Swee, the Capitan Tumongong of Brunei. He is the owner of two brick shops in Victoria, and the proprietor of the large sago manfactory at Brunei. Last year he was made a China capitan by the Sultan of Borneo, and he is one of the wealthiest traders on the north-west coast. Another town lot was purchased by a Kling shopkeeper, who is doing an extensive business, and has lately built some brick shops. Five other brick shops are now being built by Mr. Ross, the owner and master of the barque 'Samson,' the principal trading ship between this Colony and Singapore. Five other brick shops have just been completed by Cheng Hoh, one of the opium farmers. The shops building for Mr. Ross have, I understand, been already let at remunerative rents to Chinese traders in Singapore, who are about establishing themselves in Labuan.

Some country lots have been purchased by Mr. Mah Soo, one of my most useful magistrates. He is a proprietor of Sago Works at Brunei and Labuan, and the owner of some substantial warehouses. In reverting to the policy which made Brunei in the last century a thriving and wealthy capital, the Sultan has recently given Mr. Mah Soo the rank of Capitan Siri Maharajah. His Highness has conferred similar rank on another of the chief Chinamen, so that now there are three China Capitans, who are empowered to protect the Chinese population in the Sultan's dominions, and who settle all disputes amongst the Chinese, without referring to the Malay Rajahs. Other country

lots were purchased by "shopkeepers, gardeners, carpenters, milkmen, cattle-keepers, and paddy-growers."

Abolition of the Land Tax.

21. Early in 1868, when I began to revise the system of taxation, I found that the land tax in this Colony had been imposed in 1862 by the Governor's Proclamation.

22. I directed the Surveyor-General to draft an Ordinance embodying the provisions of the Proclamation, and this draft I laid before the Legislative Council.

23. Before, however, taking any further steps in the matter, I made a personal inquiry into the operation of the tax, and the result induced me to withdraw the proposed Ordinance, and to abolish the tax forthwith.

24. I found that the land tax produced but little revenue, not more than 80*l.* a-year on an average—that this revenue was decreasing, and that its mode of collection by the police was irksome to the people.

25. I also found that it was causing, year after year, the emigration of one of the most useful races in the Colony.

26. I cannot exhibit its operation in a clearer way than by quoting for your Lordship the following passages in the Blue Books transmitted to the Secretary of State, by my predecessors:—

27. In the Blue Book for 1861, p. 177, after describing the population in question—the Radyans—this statement is made:—"In all probability when it is attempted to "impose upon them the contemplated restrictions, a large number of them will leave "the island."

28. The Blue Book for 1862, p. 327, says:—"Some people called Radyans from the "neighbouring coast of Borneo, numbering at present about 771 men, women, and "children, have been settled in the island since 1855. They have been engaged in cultivating paddy.

"Extensive clearings have been made by them for this purpose in the jungle.

"Until the present year they have been allowed to clear without any restrictions; "after the 1st of April, 1862, they were charged 25 cents per head, as rent for the land "occupied.

"After the beginning of next year (1863) regular licences will be issued to all those "who desire to cut down jungle for the purposes of cultivation, at a rate of $2·50 for "each family."

29. The Blue Book for 1864 states that "some families, as in 1863, have left the island "rather than pay for the permission."

The Blue Book for 1865, says:—"In 1865, thirty families availed themselves of this "privilege. Some families, as in 1864, have left the island rather than pay for this permission."

30. In 1866, a still smaller number of families paid the tax; and during the first eleven months of 1867, three hundred of these people left the Colony.

31. As the Radyans are the people who cultivate rice in Labuan, and as they are particularly inoffensive and peaceable, I resolved to check their emigration, by relieving them from this exceptional tax; and the consequence has been not only a cessation of the emigration, but a gradual return to Labuan of many families from the adjacent coast.

32. As one illustration of the advantage the Government derives from their presence, I may mention the fact that this year they have grown the sugar-cane in large quantities; and one of them is the contractor for supplying the convict prison with sugar, which he delivers at five cents per catty, the former contract price of the imported sugar being fifteen cents per catty.

33. The trifling loss of direct revenue by the abolition of the poll tax that these people paid, has been more than counterbalanced by the increased consumption of tobacco; and I have no doubt but the immigration now going on will materially add to the value of the excise farms.

Legislation.

34. As the Ordinances that were passed in 1868 deal almost exclusively with the fiscal changes that were made, it is not necessary to add anything to what I have said on that subject. In drafting the new Ordinances, I followed as closely as the circumstances permitted, the provisions of the original Ordinances framed by Lieut.-Governor Napier twenty years ago, and which I found to be admirable models of the legislation needed in an Eastern Colony.

The Coal Mines.

35. The employment of convicts at overground on the colliery, and the substitution of convict labour for free labour on the Government Public Works, have so far relieved

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the labour market as to enable the manager of the mines to keep them in constant operation, and to open new workings. The commanders of vessels continue to report favourably on the quality of the coal, and the new Company are making a steady profit every month.

36. Last year a cargo of coal was sent to the neighbouring French colony of Saigon. The Governor gave directions that it should be tried in three of the steamers of the French Navy; one small steamer was sent up the river, and two larger ones were sent out to sea. In informing me of the general result of these experiments, His Excellency Admiral Obier writes:—"I am very glad to say that the reports of the commanders "have been such as to enable me to order the purchase of the entire cargo." Since then the Governor has sent for fifteen hundred tons, and the steamer 'Vine' is now taking in another cargo for Saigon.

37. The opening of the Suez Canal has already stimulated the demand for Labuan coal. Formerly the sailing ships coming around the Cape brought out vast quantities of coal as ballast, but it is now surmised that this source of supply will diminish, and at a time when steam communication in the East is increasing. The production of cheap coal, of good quality, in Labuan is therefore a subject of some interest to Her Majesty's Navy, and to British commerce in the China Sea.

38. Since Mr. Lumsden, the manager of the colliery, estimated the quantity of coal in a limited area of Labuan at twenty millions of tons, he has had an opportunity of examining a seam of coal which crops out near the head of Victoria harbour, and, basing his calculations on data similar to those adopted by Mr. Oldham, the Director of the Geological Survey of India, he estimates that the workable coal in the whole of Labuan is over four hundred millions of tons.

39. In Mr. Oldham's recent report on the Coal Fields of India, he says:—"The "Labuan, or Borneo coal, has always been favourably reported on. The uncertainty of "the supply has hitherto prevented its being as much used as its good quality would "justify."

As the uncertainty of supply in times past, to which Mr. Oldham refers, will not exist in future, it may be fairly assumed that Labuan coal will soon take an important place in the Eastern market.

Trade and Commerce.

40. The total value of imports and exports in 1868 amounted to 433,578*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, as against 235,429*l.* in 1867.

Sago.

41. In my Despatch, No. 10, of the 16th February, 1868, I mentioned that the Labuan sago-traders anticipated an increase in their business, owing to the assistance afforded to the Colony by the Sultan of Borneo, in removing some obstructions to the transit of sago in the neighbouring rivers. These anticipations have been fulfilled. The value of the sago imported into Labuan in 1867 was 9,810*l.* 18*s.* In 1868 the trade increased one hundred per cent., the value of the imported sago being 19,841*l.*

In the same Despatch I mentioned that the process of manufacture at Labuan added 2,036*l.* 5*s.* to the value of the sago in one year (1867). I now find that the process of manufacture here in the subsequent year (1868) added 8,764*l.* to the value of the sago.

This extended manufacture has been principally owing to the industry of Choa Mahsoo, one of the two new magistrates whose appointment your Lordship has recently sanctioned.

From all I can learn I think it not improbable that this Colony may yet become the centre of the sago manufacture of the Eastern Archipelago.

Piece Goods and Grey Shirtings.

42. The value of piece goods and grey shirtings imported into Labuan in 1867 was 32,282*l.* In 1868 this had risen to 61,538*l.*

Opium.

43. The quantity of opium imported in 1868, valued at 3,125*l.*, was double that imported in 1867, valued at 1,500*l.* It is generally believed that the consumption of this article is the best test of the prosperity of the Chinese settlers.

Crockery and Hardware.

44. In crockery there has been a still greater increase, from 1,300*l.* worth in 1867 to 3,341*l.* worth in 1868. Of hardware, 126 cases were imported in 1868, valued at 8,300*l.*

India-rubber and Gutta Percha.

45. The value of the india-rubber and gutta percha exported in 1867 was 7,394*l.* This went up to 18,518*l.* in 1868. The demand for these articles in the European markets continues to increase, and the Labuan traders look forward to maintaining a good supply, as vast quantities are known to exist along the north-east coast of Borneo, and in the Tawi Tawi Islands and in Magindanao.

Pearls.

46. The quantity of pearls exported from Labuan to Singapore in 1868 was double the quantity exported in 1867; but as the pearls ran smaller in 1868, the value of the exports in each year was about the same. In 1867, 1,990 taels of pearls, worth 10,450*l.*, were exported as against 3,853 taels in 1868, worth 11,554*l.*

Population.

48. No correct census has hitherto been taken, but I hope before long to receive minute returns respecting the different races in the Colony, so as to prepare an accurate report on the population.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSEY,
Governor.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 271.)

MY LORD, Mauritius, October 16, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Mauritius Blue Book for 1868. That year must ever rank as one of the most dismal in the annals of the Colony, the hurricane of March having formed a climax to preceding calamities, among which a destructive and protracted epidemic, and a succession of five very indifferent sugar crops, may be noted.

2. So violent a tempest had not occurred for upwards of thirty years, if, indeed, one of equal intensity ever visited the Island. The force of the wind—as evidenced by the blowing in of the gable end of the large stone building recently erected for railway workshops at Plaine Laurun, and the displacement from the columns on which it rested of nearly 250 tons of the iron viaduct by which the Midland Line was carried over the Grand River Ravine—must have been so enormous that even to this moment the eminent engineer in England by whom these works were designed will hardly believe that they had been constructed according to his specifications. Churches, sugar factories, and edifices of every description, including Government House Reduit, which had braved the storms of almost a century, proved equally incapable of withstanding its fury, and were unroofed, or utterly reduced to ruins.

3. In addition to the severe losses thus immediately entailed, the eventual injury to the sugar crop proved most serious. The full-grown canes were uprooted or broken short off; the young plantations more or less damaged and retarded. It was at first anticipated, indeed, that if heavy rains set in, the cultivation would materially recover, and as the weather was to all appearance most propitious, confident hopes were entertained that a fair average quantity of sugar would still be produced. As the manufacture advanced, however, these expectations gradually vanished; canes which looked magnificent before they were cut, yielding comparatively little; and before the end of

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the year it became but too evident that scarcely more than half of the one hundred and fifty thousand tons, at which the crop had been estimated before the hurricane, would be realized.

4. Similar phenomena were observed in regard to other plants, the Director of the Botanic Gardens mentioning in his Annual Report exotic trees which seemed to recover quickly, grow vigorously, and flower, only to die suddenly before the ripening of the fruit, in some cases at the expiration of no less than seven months from the date of injury. Mr. Horne's explanation is, that though roots enough were left to nourish the plant for a time, the rootlets at their extremities were so completely destroyed as not to be able to administer duly to its permanent growth, still less support its reproductive organs. The effect of this destruction of half the sugar crop was to aggravate fearfully the previous sufferings of the community, and the results are clearly traceable in most of the returns now transmitted.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

5. The increased rates imposed on spirits and tobacco at the close of 1867 came into force at the beginning of the year, but no further addition to taxation was practicable in the depressed state of trade. When bringing forward the Estimates for the present year, I suggested, indeed, as a means of keeping up the receipts from stamps that a tax of 1*d.* should be imposed on receipts and on bankers' cheques, but the Finance Committee preferred a general revision of the Stamp Act, which was not completed until some months afterwards, and then only with the view of producing the trifling addition I had estimated, although it became clear that a very much larger revenue could be derived from this source without sensibly affecting commercial transactions.

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The returns under this head are a good deal complicated by the large sums expended during the year on the repairs of the railways and other public works injured by the hurricane, the amount of which has since been recovered from the loan sanctioned on that behalf, of which a portion only was raised by way of anticipation within the year.

7. Apart from these provisional entries, the result was more satisfactory than might have been anticipated, the Comparative Statement of the revenue of 1867 and 1868 showing a rise from 534,992*l.* to 577,686*l.*, or a net increase of 42,693*l.*, notwithstanding the effects of the hurricane; whilst the decrease in the comparative expenditure of the two years, though reduced to 1330*l.* by the temporary advances on account of hurricane damages, would have amounted to 46,000*l.*, reducing the actual deficit on the year to 16,306*l.*

Local Revenues.

8. The accounts of the Municipality show an increase of 3,000*l.* in their debt, but the balance of cash in hand is larger by 1,200*l.* The duty of maintaining paupers and of providing medical attendance for them when sick having been lately transferred to the Poor Law Commission, material relief has been afforded to municipal resources, which should henceforth be devoted exclusively to the improvement of the town.

9. The Poor Law Commission, as reconstituted under Ordinance 11 of 1868, carried on its operations during a portion of the year only, its income being derived from a net percentage on the duties leviable on imports and exports, instead of, as before, from local rates. Its first Annual Report has just reached me, and I shall refer to it when I come to those returns which bear upon the condition of the people.

10. The General Board of Health, which remains dependent on direct taxation, is still in debt to the Treasury for advances made during the height of the epidemic, the continued existence of fever throughout the Island necessitating increased outlay for sanitary purposes, and rendering its income insufficient to meet its expenditure. The question of providing adequate funds for the execution of works of drainage and sanitation so much needed was several months ago brought by me under the consideration of the Legislature, but the Special Committee to which it was referred has only lately presented its Report.

Military Expenditure.

11. The total disbursements of all kinds of the Imperial Government on account of the protection of the Colony amounted during the year to 95,520*l.*, towards which 45,000*l.* was contributed from colonial funds. As credit is not given, however, in the

Commissariat accounts for the large sums realized for the rent of canteens and of lands sublet by the War Department, there can be little doubt that the Colony really sustained more than half the cost of its garrison, reduced as that latterly was, from fear of the fever, to about 500 men.

12. Thanks to your Lordship's intercession, arrangements have been since made by which, so long as the regiment of infantry and company of artillery and of engineers stationed here remain so far below their proper strength, this charge will fall less heavily on the Colony.

Public Works

13. Were at a standstill owing to the state of the finances, except so far as the repair of damages occasioned by the hurricane was concerned.

Civil Establishments.

14. Every opportunity of economizing in this respect was of course taken advantage of by the Government, and although the prospective reduction on vacancies in the salaries of the heads of departments scarcely came into play, the net saving effected during 1868 will be found to have amounted to 11,135*l.*

15. The result of the various steps taken will be still more apparent during the present year, and when the extensive changes recommended by the Commission which I appointed at the instance of the Legislature to investigate the subject, can be fully brought into operation, it may be fairly anticipated that the amount to be provided for salaries of public officers will be considerably less than it was ten years ago, in spite of the gradual rise in the salaries of the subordinate members of the service through the system of annual increments. Whether, now that most of the heads of departments have been placed on a reduced scale, it be expedient or equitable to suspend the further operation of that system, as suggested by the Commission, is a question which the Legislature is about to decide.

Population.

16. The vital statistics of the Colony have again been carefully revised—as will be seen from the Returns—on the basis of the Census of 1861; but the Registers of the Civil Status were formerly kept with so little reference to statistical purposes, that further corrections have still to be made before accurate data can be obtained.

17. I hope soon to be in a position to submit the long-promised Ordinance for the reconstitution of this department; but it is extremely difficult, as I have on previous occasions explained, to reconcile the views of those who hold the Civil Status of an individual of such paramount importance that all acts bearing thereon ought to be under the direct supervision of the Ministere Public, with the desire of the Statist to obtain simply correct information as to the aggregate of births, marriages, and deaths occurring in the different classes of the community.

18. Meanwhile I am happy to be able to enclose the Annual Report on the latter subject of the General Sanitary Inspector, whom I took the opportunity of placing in temporary charge of the Civil Status Office in Port Louis during the absence of its chief, Mr. Higginson, in order to pave the way for the appointment of a Registrar-General.

19. Although the figures set forth by Dr. Edwards do not precisely accord with those of the Blue Book, they come near enough, as he observes, for all ordinary purposes. The results, though denoting improvement in all respects in the health and circumstances of the people when compared with the preceding year, are very far from satisfactory, owing to the continued prevalence of malarious fever.

20. The annual death-rate of the whole Island in 1868 is given at 5·60 per cent., precisely half of that at which I calculated it in my Blue Book Despatch for the previous year, but upwards of a third higher than in ordinary seasons.

21. The mortality was, however, as before, very unequally divided as regards both time and place. Thus, Dr. Edwards estimates the deaths in Port Louis at 10 per cent. of its inhabitants; those of the rural districts at 4·43 only; whilst taking each quarter of the year for the whole Island, the ratio compared to the total mortality was—

To 31st March - - -	36·3
To 30th June - - -	32·7
To 30th September - - -	18·9
To 31st December - -	11·9

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showing a rapid and progressive decline throughout the period. In fact, during the last three months of the year the proportion was not more than equal to twenty-six in a thousand of the population annually. Fever was returned as the immediate cause of death is 58·94 per cent. of the total mortality, but no doubt conduced to it in many other cases. It must be remembered, however, that about 33 per cent. of deaths in tropical countries are always due to febrile attacks, so that the whole of the above cannot be set down to the account of the epidemic.

22. Dr. Edwards, who was absent from the Colony when the Report of the Fever Inquiry Commission was promulgated, enters at some length into an explanation of his own views on the subject, which are not those of the Commissioners. His conclusion is that malarious fever has for many years been becoming endemic in Mauritius, and that there is little chance of getting rid of it altogether; but that with regard to its recent manifestations in an epidemic form, it may reasonably be hoped, from the favourable indications apparent, that the disease is dying out, and that before the close of the present year the Island will have recovered its former comparatively healthy condition.

23. This was written in April last, and certainly during each succeeding month the mortality has been steadily decreasing; but, nevertheless, new cases of malarious fever, some even of the pernicious type, do occasionally occur, and relapses are very frequent.

24. Whilst, therefore, there seems no ground for anticipating a further violent outbreak in any quarter of the Island, it is now generally apprehended that with the return of hot weather there will be a partial revival.

25. The Annual Report of the Protector of Immigrants will be found to contain interesting information respecting this class of the population.

26. As in the preceding year, the mortality amongst those under engagement on sugar estates was considerably below the general average of the Colony.

Immigration from India continued on a very limited scale, the total arrivals from Calcutta numbering but 1,528, and from Madras 358. The number returning to India was considerably in excess of this, amounting to 2,544.

27. The adverse circumstances which for the last two or three years have deterred the planters from introducing labourers are fast disappearing, but requisitions nevertheless come in very sparingly, notwithstanding the great decrease in the population occasioned by departures, as well as by the annual excess of deaths over births. It strikes me, indeed, as a strong proof of the good effect of the new Labour Law of 1867, in promoting industry among the time-expired immigrants, that although for some months past agriculture has been reviving, and a larger crop than for many years is in course of manufacture, the supply of labour has so nearly equalled the demand, that no serious rise in wages has taken place, and the planters seem satisfied to look to the Indian population already settled here, rather than have recourse to the expense of bringing in new immigrants.

28. I have little doubt, indeed, that when the registration under that Ordinance is still further perfected, and the regulations for the repression of vagrancy and squatting become more efficacious, its successful working will obviate the necessity for recourse to immigration on the former scale for several years longer.

Poor Relief.

29. The Protector alludes in his Report to the change in the system of administering relief to the poor, of which he may be said to have been the author, and to have had the chief share in carrying the Ordinance into operation, as President of the Commission appointed thereunder.

30. The first Annual Report of the Commissioners having just reached my hands, I enclose a copy for your Lordship's information, as the readiest way of showing the nature and difficulty of the duties they have been called on to perform. Those duties were not confined merely to the initiation of a better mode of almsgiving, but included the organization throughout the entire Island of a complete system of medical assistance. Their importance in the midst of an impoverished and fever-stricken community cannot be over-estimated so far as the interests of humanity were concerned, whilst the danger of permanently degrading a large class of the population to the condition of paupers was, on the other hand, a very serious one.

Enclosure 1 Report of Poor Law Commissioners.

31. I am happy to say that the Commissioners have executed their task with firmness and discrimination; and though their expenditure has certainly been heavy, it is satisfactory to find that it has been mainly occasioned by the recrudescence of the epidemic, and that so far as pauperism is concerned, the number of persons in receipt of relief has

only risen from 1,131 under the old system, to 1,599, at which latter rate it is only equal to 4·9 in a thousand of the total population of the Colony.

32. Statistics as to the Hospitals of the Board and as to Insane Paupers are appended by the Commissioners.

33. The new forms of returns to be filled up for the Civil Hospital and Government Lunatic Asylum, as required by your Lordship's Circular of 12th July last, will, I trust, be ready to accompany this Despatch.

Education.

34. The number of pupils at the Royal College is recovering but slowly, the insanitary state of Port Louis inducing many parents to place their sons at private schools in the country. A plan, however, for the thorough reorganization of the institution has been put forward by the new rector, and approved by the Council of Education, by means of which I hope it will soon once more take its place as the principal educational establishment of the Colony.

35. In the Government Schools I am glad to say the ground lost during the height of the epidemic had been all but regained at the close of last year, when the total on the rolls stood at 3,927 against 3,981 on 31st December, 1866.

36. The Denominational or Grant-in-aid Schools continued, on the contrary, to decline in number from 59 to 42, and their scholars from 2,770 in 1866, and 2,266 in 1867, to only 1,894. This could not be the effect of the new and more stringent regulations which the Executive Council felt called on to adopt in regard to the conditions of grants, since these did not come into operation until the commencement of the present year, but was attributable probably in part to the withdrawal of private subscriptions, and partly to the greater inducement offered by the more efficient system of education pursued in the schools of Government.

Administration of Justice.

37. The usual Reports from the Judges of cases tried before them, and from the Procureur-General on "Crime," are appended. The latter is by no means so satisfactory as I could desire, the lull produced in 1867 by the ravages of the epidemic having been followed by a reaction which brought the number of offences—despite the decrease of population—up to the standard—not indeed of 1866—but of preceding years.

Enclosure 2. Procureur-General's Report on Crime.

38. Possibly some part of the increase was due to the wide-spread distress resulting from the sickness and consequent destitution of many heads of families, but it was not confined to offences against property, cases of violence to the person showing continuous augmentation.

39. The number of murders, nevertheless, was smaller than for a long time past; and of the three individuals sentenced to death it was not deemed essential by the Executive Council that any should suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

40. A remarkable decline in "Domestic Larcenies" is likewise pointed by Mr. Colin, and referred to the extension of the Portrait Ticket and Police Pass system to "Old Immigrants" under the provisions of the Labour Law of 1867, whereby detection and capture in the case of servants robbing their employers are rendered all but inevitable.

41. The registration of this same class under the new law, when not engaged in domestic service or on estates, does not, however, appear as yet to have had the anticipated effect of diminishing "gang robberies;" but it must be remembered that the necessary arrangements could only be gradually carried out in each district, and that, until complete, they furnished the police with scarcely any clue to the movements of this nomadic portion of the population.

42. The law is not even yet in full operation, and will require to be extended to the whole labouring class—especially to Indians born in the Colony—before it can be perfectly effective; but from the Report of a Committee appointed to inquire into its working, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy, it will be seen that it has been highly successful, and I am confident indeed that, with the aid of a few amendments, Ordinance No. 31 of 1867 will eventually accomplish the all-important objects which I had in view at the time of its introduction, the repression, namely, of crime, the diminution of vagrancy, and the improvement of the sanitary condition of the population.

Enclosure 3. Interim Report, 7/6/69.

Gaols and Prisons.

43. The usual forms are filled in, but I regret to observe that the measurements given are those of the central gaols only, omitting those of the various succursals. The best

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information, however, as to the condition of these establishments will be found in the Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report of Diseases treated in the Prison Hospitals, which is printed among the Miscellaneous Returns.

Enclosure 4. Report on Prisons.

44. I forward likewise the usual full account of the civil prisons of Port Louis, by the Chairman of the Managing Committee, the Procureur-General.

45. The total number of persons ordinarily undergoing imprisonment in the eight districts of the Colony may be said to average between thirteen and fourteen hundred, exclusive of from eight hundred to a thousand confined in vagrant depôts. There exists adequate accommodation under present arrangements for all; but if, owing to accidental circumstances, the regulated number for any one prison should be exceeded, immediate notice is given, and a band is transferred to an adjacent district, or if necessary another building hired.

46. This in the present state of the finances is the best that can be done; but it will be seen from Dr. Reid's return that various minor alterations have been made during the year in country gaols, with a view to gain additional space and to improve ventilation.

47. In Port Louis the average nightly lock-up will be seen to have fallen from 637 to 491; even the maximum, 563, having been far below the average of any of the five preceding years. As, however, the number of inmates, including those in the hospital ward, ought never to exceed 550, advantage has been taken since the end of 1868, of the improvement in the public health, to convert the upper story of the latter building, formerly used as an extra ward of the Civil Hospital, into a dormitory, in which as many as 160 prisoners can be safely lodged at night. By this means the main gaol has been materially relieved, and it has been found practicable to bring back to it all the convicts removed during the epidemic to Flat Island, where discipline could not be so conveniently enforced.

48. With respect to the mortality of the year the returns are not unfavourable. Out of 20,606 male prisoners who entered the prisons of the Island in 1868, 125 died while in confinement; the proportion of deaths to average strength being given by Dr. Reid as 6·06 per cent., or less than half the ratio of the present year, although in some of the rural districts, Flacq for example, the epidemic raged more violently than in 1867.

49. Taking the prisoners on the books of Port Louis Prison, the result is still more satisfactory, the deaths being only 4·24 of the average strength, whereas those of the entire town population, as already mentioned, equalled 10 per cent. This fact reflects much credit on Dr. Pouguet, the late acting prison surgeon, as well as on the other officers of the department.

Juvenile Reformatory.

50. I have great pleasure in connection with these returns in inviting attention to the first Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Police on this reformatory as reconstituted under his auspices at L'Asile, an abandoned estate belonging to the Savings Bank, about six miles from Port Louis. It was not till about the middle of the year that the premises, which had been greatly damaged by the hurricane of March, were made over to Major O'Brien, who in the course of a few weeks succeeded in transferring to them the boys from the school established by his predecessor in connection with the Grand River Vagrant Depôt, and at a later period took charge of those from the experimental reformatory attached to Powder Mills Prison, so as to concentrate all the efforts of Government on a single institution.

51. The progress since made has been really astonishing, for at the date of my last visit I found that the whole of the buildings had been put into a habitable state, the grounds surrounding them cleared of bush, drained and converted into gardens; about fourteen acres being under spade husbandry, and covered with fine crops of vegetables; whilst all this had been accomplished at a comparatively trifling cost, principally with the labour of the juveniles, aided in the first instance by a gang of adult vagrants.

52. The establishment promises, indeed, to be almost self-supporting, the sales of surplus vegetables, and of articles manufactured by the boys, producing a steady revenue.

Legislation.

Enclosure 5.

53. Twenty-one Ordinances were enacted during the year, a smaller number than usual, owing chiefly to the passing of No. 8, "to amend the Law for the Naturalization of Aliens," in virtue of which, separate enactments in each case have been dispensed with, and the Statute Book spared at least a dozen such merely formal Ordinances annually.

54. The Procureur-General, in his Report on the legislation of the year, justly ranks as the most important law passed, the Ordinance relative to sales of Immovable Properties. Mr. Colin might have gone further, and described it as the most important ever passed by the Council of Government, for it has put an end to abuses of long standing with regard to claims against sugar estates, and rendered it safe in future for capitalists to advance money on mortgage on such securities.

55. The beneficial effects of this Ordinance during the late crisis are admitted on all hands. In fact, as Mr. Colin asserts, it contributed to save colonial agriculture from ruin.

56. On the next most important Ordinances—those to amend the Law for the Relief of the Poor—I have already touched, and the remainder of the legislation of the year, though including several measures of great practical utility, is so fully explained in the Procureur-General's Report, that I need not here enlarge upon it.

Imports and Exports.

57. There is little on the face of the Annual Returns under this head to account for or even indicate the serious commercial and agricultural perturbations which shook the Colony towards the close of the year.

58. On the contrary, the value of Imports (less 200,000*l.* worth of specie) stands at 2,000,000*l.*, and that of Exports (less specie) at 2,313,134*l.*, as compared with only 1,720,000*l.* and 2,003,805*l.*, respectively, in the previous year, the quantity of sugar shipped appearing, as nearly as may be, the same, say 100,000 tons.

59. It has been pointed out, indeed, in the newspapers that the Customs Department has placed too high a valuation on the latter, and that the exports of the year were not actually worth above 2,000,000*l.* sterling'; but even accepting this correction—which is probably well founded, as the figures in the Blue Book would give an average of 21*s.* 10*d.* per 100 lbs. French, or 3*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. over that of the previous year, though it was not till the last quarter of 1868 that the news of the insurrection in Cuba materially raised the price—the value of produce exported balanced that of the goods imported, so that an explanation of the crisis is yet to be sought.

60. It must be borne in mind, in the first place, that the previous year, with which the comparison was made, had been one of much depression through the fever, and that for several years before, misfortune after misfortune had befallen the Colony, so that the proceeds of each crop of sugar were virtually in most cases forestalled long ere its manufacture had commenced. Thus the imports of 1868, augmented to the old standard in consequence of the expectations entertained at its commencement of a very fine crop, fell to be paid for, not out of the proceeds of the total shipments of the year, but out of the sugar manufactured during the latter portion of it, the crop commencing about the end of July, which was reduced by the hurricane to a little more than the moiety of what had been anticipated.

61. In point of fact, the shipments of last crop up to 31st July, 1869, only amounted to 78,000 tons, or just half that of 1862-3, and its value was at the least 600,000*l.* short of that of 1867-8, indifferent as that had been.

62. So heavy a deficit had not, as already stated at the commencement of this Despatch, been suspected until the bad yielding of the canes became universally apparent about the middle of October or beginning of November, and the panic that then ensued is quite beyond description.

63. The planters, impoverished by previous calamities, were for the most part wholly unable to meet their current engagements, or to offer available security to capitalists for the heavy advances requisite to carry on their cultivation until the succeeding crop.

64. So general, indeed, was the dread of another hurricane, that even those who were reputed wealthy, and those less encumbered than the rest, experienced the greatest difficulty for a time in obtaining credit at the stores, or cash to enable them to pay the wages of their labourers; and on a great many estates wages not only fell several months into arrear, but even the ordinary rations could, on some whose proprietors were irretrievably ruined, no longer be furnished.

65. It was an anxious moment to all entrusted with the preservation of the public peace; the Procureur-General, the Protector of Immigrants, the Stipendiary Magistrates, and the Inspector-General of Police, each in his respective sphere having immensely-increased responsibilities.

66. Thanks to mutual co-operation, combined with incessant vigilance and activity, the burden was admirably sustained; and my own thanks, no less than the gratitude of

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the community, are justly due to the officers enumerated for the firm and conciliatory spirit in which they acted.

67. On the other hand, it is but fair to the Indian population to state that they behaved with the greatest forbearance, sympathizing apparently with the misfortunes of their employers, exhibiting the utmost reliance on the Government, and following the advice of the Protector or of the magistrates as to the prosecution of their claims, so that in a single instance only did the slightest disturbance occur, and that was of a trivial nature. It is very satisfactory to me to be in a position to add that, thanks to the exertions of the Procureur-General and the Protector, and to the stringent provisions of the law, in no case did the labourers fail to recover eventually the full amount due to them.

68. To heighten the embarrassment, a local Credit Foncier Society found it necessary to suspend its operations in the midst of the crisis. Fortunately the other two companies, which have their head-quarters in London and Paris respectively, stood the shock, and together with the "Ceylon Company" did their utmost to support the properties with which they were connected. But it was unquestionably the branch of the Oriental Bank established in the Colony that rendered the most signal services to agriculture at so critical a juncture; and save for the courage and prudence of its manager, in sustaining all those planters who had the slightest chance of weathering the storm, the condition of affairs would have become all but desperate.

69. With the timely aid thus afforded, the exercise of strict economy, and the favourable aspect of the European sugar market, the crisis was at length surmounted, and by April in the present year—the hurricane season once safely past—funds for the rest of the entrecoupe were procurable as usual. Of course not a few properties changed hands, and the proprietors of others will be long ere they regain their former independent position; but apart from the misfortunes of individuals, cultivation has been maintained, a large crop, say 130,000 tons, for 1869–70, is now certain, and the future of the Colony is again bright and serene as ever. Nothing is more remarkable indeed than the rapidity of its recovery in such cases. Dependent on the production of a single article, the whole community seems on the verge of ruin from a failure; yet so valuable is that article that a single favourable season suffices to restore prosperity to all around! There are serious drawbacks, no doubt, to such a state of things; but despite every effort it must almost inevitably prevail in these small sugar-growing islands, and the policy of their Governments should therefore be directed to preparing for these vicissitudes, and guarding against the dangers, financial as well as social, which may arise therefrom.

70. The best means of doing so, as far as the former are concerned, is obviously the accumulation of a sufficient reserve of capital by investing the surplus of prosperous years to meet the falling off of revenue in years of calamity.

71. With regard, on the other hand, to the special risk to which a population so situated is exposed from the effects of famine, pestilence, drought or tempest, habits of industry and frugality, backed by an efficient system of poor relief for those who from sickness or age cannot earn a livelihood, will prove the surest remedies. Every effort also should be made to introduce and encourage minor industries, such as the production of silk, the cultivation of the Chinese nettle fibre, and other means of adding to the earnings of women and children.

72. Unfortunately, in the present position of Mauritius, the replacement of the large sums once invested in England, but expended partly on the continuation of railways, partly during recent financial embarrassments, constitutes a task of no ordinary difficulty. The appropriations for the interest and sinking fund of the railway debt alone are likely for many years to come to exceed by forty or fifty thousand pounds per annum the nett receipts of the undertaking, thus rendering the repeal of the extra taxes imposed to meet this charge, as much out of the question as recourse to further taxation to create a reserve would unquestionably be; whilst, on the other hand, the absolute necessity of a heavy expenditure on works of drainage and purification with a view to the improvement of the public health, cannot be contested.

73. Nevertheless, by throwing the latter outlay as much as possible upon property, and above all by persevering in that course of rigid economy, both as to civil establishments and public works, which this Government has been forced for some time past to pursue, I firmly believe that in four or five years a fresh reserve of 100,000*l.* may be accumulated to fall back on in case of any future catastrophe—should such unhappily be destined to occur.

74. I am aware that to some this will appear too sanguine a view. They allege that Mauritius has seen its brightest days; that sugar cultivation reached its maximum limit several years ago; that the soil is in many districts exhausted, and the cane plant in consequence subject to the attacks of insects and other diseases, &c., &c. In my

opinion there are no adequate grounds for any of these forebodings, though they are not surprising after the series of ordeals through which the Island has had to pass.

75. Granted that, although nearly a fifth of the surface is still either covered with forest or in a state of nature, it is generally too elevated and consequently too cold and damp for the production of sugar, and that little virgin soil is available for that purpose beyond a few patches of woodland at the back of the estates of the more prudent proprietors. Granted that many estates have been most improvidently worked, yet there seems to me no reason why, with the improved system of agriculture now commencing, a greater variety of manures, more frequent fallowing, and a more careful rotation of green crops, the land now in cultivation should not go on producing more than it has ever hitherto done. As to the deterioration of the sugar cane, which seems to me attributable in no small degree to the immoderate and uninterrupted use of guano, the steps which have been taken to introduce fresh varieties from Java, New Caledonia, and other countries, will, in the long run, permit the entire renewal of the plant; and the question is not, at any rate, so much beyond the pale of botany and agricultural chemistry as to justify any serious alarm.

76. On the other hand, improvements of the highest importance, though, at the same time, singularly inexpensive, are now being carried out in the mode of manufacturing sugar, which are certain to lead to a considerable increase in quantity and a wonderful amelioration of quality, and consequently ought not to be lost sight of in any appreciation of the future prospects of this Colony.

77. I allude to what is called, from its inventor, the "Icery process," a mode of applying monosulphite of lime, by which the juice of the cane is so thoroughly defecated, that sugar but little inferior to refined is produced at a first process. Under present circumstances the superior article thus manufactured will be chiefly sent to Australia or Bombay, since it would be subject in the mother-country to 4*s.* per cwt. higher duty; but as the patent will shortly be in universal use, the Colonists will no doubt be compelled to seek the British market, and submit to this tax upon their skill, until the discriminating duties on sugar, the last remnant of the protective system, in effect if not in design, shall be abolished.

78. To conclude,—there is no good ground for apprehending that the Colony will not regain or retain its former prosperity; and though it will always be exposed to casualties, it is a source of deep gratification to me, in handing over the government to my successor, to reflect that his administration is not likely, so far as human foresight can perceive, to be marked by these dire calamities or attended with the extreme financial difficulties which it has been my lot to encounter.

I have &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

SIR, Poor Law Office, September 27, 1869.

As required by law, we have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Report on the Administration of Relief to the Poor.

2. This is the first General Report presented by the Poor Law Commission on the operation of the system of poor relief, organized under Ordinances 11 and 20 of 1868. The period over which it extends embraces the 14 months which elapsed from the 1st May, 1868, to the 30th June, 1869. We have thought it right to bring our review down to the latter date, so as wholly to include the first half of the year 1869.

3. We shall divide this Report into two parts :—In the first place we shall refer to the financial matters which have fallen under our control; next to the initiation, progress, and realized results of the new system of poor relief.

4. Beginning thus with the finances with which we have had to deal, we beg leave to state that while we recovered from the assets of the former Poor Relief Committees the amount of 2,732*l.* 8*s.* 9¾*d.*, we have had to pay on account of those Boards, and in reimbursement of poor-rates, the amount of 2,830*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*, or nearly 100*l.* more than the assets recovered.

5. It is obvious that the sums so recovered and paid out respectively on account of the Poor Relief Boards whom we succeeded, ought to be considered as standing apart from the revenue proper and expenditure proper of the new poor relief system. In the

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statement of revenue and expenditure which we submit herewith,* we have therefore distinguished the sums so recovered and disbursed.

6. We have also drawn a distinction between the *disbursements necessitated by the organization of the new system*, and those which actually formed *the working expenses of the system*.

7. The former amounted to 10,989*l.* 9*s.* 3½*d.*, consisting chiefly of the prices paid for Beau Bassinand Mon Plaisir, the two estates which we have purchased, and of the expenses of their installation. On the former we have established a Central Asylum for the poor, with a hospital, a school, and other necessary appendages; and on the latter a large hospital, spacious enough to contain 120 patients. We shall allude to these establishments more particularly farther on. For the details of the other expenses of organization we beg leave to refer your Excellency to the statement herewith forwarded.

8. With your Excellency's permission the Commission has defrayed all the expenditure attending organization with funds derived from loans. Thus an amount of 11,000*l.* has been borrowed on debentures issued at par, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum. The dates at which those debentures are payable are set forth in the Statement B herein enclosed.

9. The working expenses of the Commission—those paid with its ordinary income—amounted in all, at the end of the 14 months now reported upon, to 20,921*l.* 1*s.* 9¾*d.* Its ordinary revenue having yielded 22,813*l.* 18*s.*, the cash balances standing in its favour on the 30th June last represented 1,804*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* But those balances were insufficient to meet various sums exigible, and which had not yet been claimed: these amounted to 6,417*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* There therefore was, in reality, a deficit in the finances of the Commission equal to 4,612*l.* 10*s.*

10. This result was partly due to the slackness of commercial affairs during the first half of this year, and to the consequent falling of our revenue below its estimated amount. Its chief cause was the wide-spread distress occasioned by the recrudescence of the epidemic with which the Colony was afflicted, and the consequent enhancement of our expenses.†

11. Under such circumstances, we presume that it will not be a matter of surprise to your Excellency that our balance sheet exhibited a deficiency. The less so as at the end of May we thought it our duty to submit a full exposition of our financial affairs, showing plainly the overgrowth of our expenditure, and its causes.

12. Feeling the grave responsibility which rested upon Government, we met the exigencies of the epidemic unsparingly, preferring to err through an excess of liberality towards the suffering poor than in the opposite direction. The pressure upon our finances was heavy, and the unavoidable result was that we were compelled to come forward and represent the necessity of an augmentation of our resources,—or at least of our being assisted by Government until we recovered from the shock we had sustained.

13. The Legislature had indeed foreseen the occurrence of such emergencies, and had clearly provided for them. It is laid down in Ordinance No. 11 of 1868 that—"if, "through epidemic visitations, or other unforeseen causes, the amount of expenditure "borne on the estimates has to be exceeded, the Council of Government may be "appealed to by the Poor Law Commission for a provisional increase of the percentage "levied on Customs' duties for the purposes of poor relief."

Article 18

14. But as we had still to learn from experience what was likely to be the probable tax on our funds during the healthy season, and what the economies we might realize during the latter half of the year when disease is less rife and employment more abundant, we did not hesitate to declare that, if approved by your Excellency, we should prefer having recourse to an advance from the Treasury, or the Savings' Bank,—so that we might prosecute our operations therewith, endeavouring, by sternly reducing our expenses as the epidemic gave way, to retrieve our position if possible without the aid of further imposts.

15. This course the Commission has adopted with your Excellency's approval. We have accepted an advance of 2,000*l.* from the Savings' Bank; and are now using every effort to pay off the debts thrown upon us by the epidemic, and to bring our income and expenditure to an equipoise. As, on the one hand, we are overlooking no opportunity of effecting retrenchments, and on the other,—as we venture to anticipate—our income has been improving, we persist in hoping that, if the Colony be spared from a repetition of those disasters, which have so much increased the distress of the poorer classes

* The Appendices and Statements are not reprinted.

† Appendix D shows the extraordinary expenses necessitated by the epidemic, so far as they can be separately computed. The cost of quinine alone amounted to 746*l.* (Not printed.)

within the last few years, we shall be able to restore our finances gradually to a satisfactory condition without calling upon Government to impose any new taxes on the public.

16. And it is well here that the Commission should frankly lay its views of the position of its finances before your Excellency. At the commencement of our operations much experience had undoubtedly to be gained; on the other hand, starting as the Commission did during the less unhealthy portion of the year, much of the distress existing even then could not at once be reached. Many persons in absolute want refused to accept relief under the restrictions which it was the duty of the Commission to impose, for the purpose of exercising the control required by law over the distribution of that relief.

17. Again our task was still greatly lightened by that family affection of which the Creoles of Mauritius may be so justly proud, and the effects of which we were only able to appreciate at their full value, when after the disastrous season of 1868 applications for relief poured in from persons of all classes of society, unable to earn a sustenance for themselves, but who had till then lived on the support of their relatives, whom but too often calamity and sickness had at last reduced from being the prop of others to being themselves applicants for relief. To this fact, and to the consequent necessity for casual relief to persons temporarily incapacitated from supporting themselves or their relatives, the extraordinary strain upon the resources of the Commission has been of late in a great measure attributable.

18. And while in ordinary practice, the rule is made to obtain that the revenue and expenditure of public bodies should vary in a common ratio, such is not the case with the Poor Law Commission. For the imports and exports being as it were the pulse of a community, any great shock to its prosperity is as surely followed by an increase in its pauperism as it is by a corresponding decrease in the Customs' revenues.

19. And it is therefore that, having confidence in the returning prosperity of the Colony, we would still fain hope that the yet trifling deficit of the Commission,—which has arisen from adverse times, coupled with the strain of an epidemic which our ordinary revenues were in no ways designed to cope with,—may yet be counterbalanced by the decreased outlay and increasing revenues of coming years. Yet it would be vain for us to disguise from your Excellency that were the hopes of returning health and prosperity to the Island again to be rudely dispelled, as they were last year, the exigencies of poor relief would then again as surely require additional temporary assistance from some quarter or another.

20. Having thus, as we trust, fully exposed our financial position and prospects, we beg leave to submit a cursory sketch of the initiation and progress of the new poor relief system.

On the 1st May, 1868, the new poor relief came partially into operation, and at the commencement of the following month the charges and duties of the former Poor Relief Committees, and those of the Municipal Corporation in regard to the poor of Port Louis, were wholly transferred to the Boards of Guardians constituted under the new law.

21. The list of paupers given over to these Boards bore the names of 508 males and 623 females, including children. They were distributed as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Port Louis	120	310	430
„ Pamplemousses	53	108	161
„ Riv. du Rempart	42	47	89
„ Flacq	100	28	128
„ Grand Port	80	27	107
„ Savanne	29	29	58
„ Black River	19	8	27
„ Plaines Wilhems	51	32	83
„ Moka	14	34	48
Totals	508	623	1131

22. One of the chief aims of the new system, as laid down for the guidance of the Commission by its constitutive enactment, being to substitute in-door for out-door relief, we lost no time in purchasing an estate fit to be converted into a central asylum. Beau Bassin estate, in Plaines Wilhems, was selected for that purpose. Its healthy site, the large extent of cultivable land which it comprised, and the abundant supply of water it

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was provided with, rendered it perfectly suitable for the intended purpose. The buildings upon it were in ruins: the restoration of those which were susceptible of being repaired, and the erection of the new ones which were besides wanted, were likely to involve both expense and delay; yet those inconveniences were greatly overbalanced by the numerous advantages and facilities which the estate afforded for the creation of the projected institution.

23. The estate was bought for 3,000*l.*; and the necessary works for its conversion into an asylum were immediately taken in hand.

24. The infirm poor of Port Louis (59 in number) were removed to the new asylum on the 1st of June, 1868; and those of the rural districts were successively admitted as fast as the accommodation necessary for them could be provided.

On the 30th June last the total number of inmates in the institution was 523. They belonged to the following classes:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	2	2	4
Indians	229	58	287
Creoles	88	92	180
Others	39	13	52
Totals	359	165	523

25. A hospital, a school, and two chapels were established on the premises as soon as the buildings requisite for them could be completed.

26. The Hopitals contained the following number of patients on the 30th June last:—

Males	65
Females	6
Total	71

27. The admissions, discharges, and deaths—and particulars therewith connected—from the opening of the institution to the close of the first half-year of 1869, are shown in Appendix E. This Return has been compiled by Dr. H. Beaugeard, the Medical Officer attached to the institution.*

28. Having mentioned the name of this officer, we think it due to him to state that the care and attention with which he discharges the duties of his office deserve to be specially noticed.

29. The Asylum School, which is carefully and ably conducted by Miss E. Lawrence and Madame Bourbon, contained 49 boys and 39 girls on the 30th June last. The progress of these pupils is occasionally inquired into and reported upon by the Superintendent of Government Schools.

30. Religious services are performed in the Chapels on Sundays, and somrtimes on week-days; and religious instruction is given to all who choose to receive it by the Reverend H. Buswell and the Abbé Harel. The attendance, both at the devotional exercises and catechistical meetings, is steadily increasing, and the demeanour of those who attend is reported to be very satisfactory.

31. It may here not be out of place to remark that, at starting, the Commissioners had looked forward not without apprehension to the religious difficulties as to the baptism and burial of paupers, which, they understood, had in other Colonies been a special obstacle in the way of the establishment of Central Asylums, and, indeed, of poor relief in general. They are happy to be able to record that after conference with the clergy of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches, an arrangement has been come to on several points which has been deemed by them to be satisfactory, and has appeared to the Commission to work very advantageously.

32. The labour of those inmates of the Central Asylum who are able to work has not yet been rendered as productive as it might be. It must, however, be remembered that at an asylum the primary object of which is the reception of those who, through age or bodily infirmity, are incapable of earning their own livelihood, there is not the same possibility of rendering the institution self-supporting, as in those where moral failings alone have to be coped with, and the physical energies are available unimpaired.

The garden, nevertheless, has been brought by the paupers into an excellent state of cultivation, and now produces enough to supply the establishment with all the vegetables

* Appendix F shows the stay in hospital of all the patients who died at Beau Bassin, and the districts whence they had been admitted. (Not printed.)

which it requires. A sewing class has also been organized by Miss Lawrence, which promises to be very successful under her intelligent and zealous direction.

33. This class began with one sempstress on the 17th May last; it now consists of 49 women, who not only assemble readily and cheerfully, but look upon every interruption of their work as a deprivation rather than as a relief from an onerous occupation. They are thus saved from the listlessness and depression to which a life of inactivity would inevitably have exposed them, and a portion of their earnings being given up to them, they are substantially encouraged to habits of industry, which cannot but produce a most salutary effect upon them, and through their example upon the other inmates of the institution.

34. The two first of the Orphanages mentioned in margin had been receiving support from the Municipal Corporation before the administration of poor relief passed into our hands. We consented to continue the contribution on the conditions mentioned in Appendix G, and saw no reason not to extend the same favour to the last-mentioned institution, which contained a much larger number of orphans, educated and attended to with the same care as in the two other establishments. The number of children in each of them, at the end of June last, was as follows:—

1. Orphelinat du Couvent de Marie Réparatrice.
2. Orphelinat des Filles de Marie.
3. Orphelinat de Notre Dame de Bon Secours.

1.	Couvent de Marie Réparatrice - - -	31
2.	„ des Filles de Marie - - -	34
3.	„ de Notre Dame de Bon Secours -	68
	Total - - - -	133

35. The Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame de Bon Secours had already, under the auspices of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, opened an Asylum for Lepers in the eastern suburbs of the town. It contained about 40 inmates in May, 1868. The superioress then offered to provide accommodation for any further admissions, on condition that the Commission should pay for their maintenance and medical treatment a monthly allowance of 1*l.* for each patient.

After having inspected the establishment, and ascertained that the greatest attention was bestowed on the comfort of its inmates, the Commissioners assented to the proposal, and have since endeavoured, as far as possible, without the use of coercive measures, to concentrate in this Institution all pauper lepers from the several districts of the Island. By this means 48 other lepers, who had been roving about and living as mendicants, were forwarded to the establishment, which contained in June last 78 males and 13 females.

36. There were 66 insane paupers (3 Europeans and 63 Indians) in the Lunatic Asylum when the Commission entered on their functions. At the end of the period now reported upon, that establishment contained the following pauper patients:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans - - -	1	2	3
Creoles - - - -	11	5	16
Indians - - -	52	14	66
Africans - - - -	4	1	5
Chinese - - -	2	...	2
Others - - - -	...	...	...
Totals - -	70	22	92*

37. The principles laid down in the Public Health Ordinances in regard to the administration of medical relief during the prevalence of epidemics, and under other circumstances, were in conflict with those which were recognized and sanctioned by the Legislature in the new Poor Law. To remove all doubts thence arising, and the mischievous consequences likely to ensue, Ordinance No. 20 of 1868 was passed, wholly transferring to the Poor Law Commission the duty of establishing and the charge of maintaining and managing public Hospitals and Dispensaries throughout the Colony. Heavy as were the additional responsibilities thus imposed, we gladly accepted them, seeing that they enabled us to complete the machinery organized for the purposes of poor relief.

38. The Commission assumed possession, on the 16th of November last, of the eight

* 26 patients more than when the Commissioners entered on their functions.

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Dispensaries which had been established by the General Board of Health, and of the temporary Hospital which had been opened at Plaine Magnien; and steps were immediately taken to make the number of public Hospitals fully adequate to the requirements of the Colony.

39. At the end of last year there were five public Hospitals in operation, besides two belonging to Sisters of Charity, and which were kindly placed by them at the disposal of the Commission. There was sufficient accommodation in these seven Hospitals for 475 males and 200 females.

40. A fresh irruption of epidemic fever at the end of the year demonstrated how necessary those establishments were: the accommodation they afforded to the sick poor, extensive as it was, was soon entirely taken up, and indeed only proved sufficient with the help of the Civil Hospital.

41. As may easily be conceived, the strain thrown upon the resources of the Commission by the numerous applications which came forward for medical relief was chiefly felt in Port Louis; whither, as in former years, large numbers of sick vagrants flocked for assistance from all parts of the Island.* They were all immediately provided for, and so were the large number of artisans and labourers resident in Port Louis, who were prostrated by fever; and could labour neither for their own subsistence nor for that of their dependents.

42. To deal effectively with the difficulties which arose, the town was divided into three sections, and a special medical officer was appointed to the charge of each. They were instructed not only to dispense medicines and food from the several Dispensaries within their respective sections, but also, and principally, to visit and treat the poor at their houses,—keeping the Local Board of Guardians daily informed of the results of all such visits.

43. The total number of Dispensaries set in operation during the epidemic was 32; six of which were in Port Louis. Some were gratuitously taken charge of by Sisters of Charity, others by private gentlemen who had benevolently come forward and tendered their kind co-operation. Amongst those who thus aided in succouring the sick poor were several military surgeons. It is due to them all that we should specially acknowledge their generous and valuable assistance in this Report.

44. For the better exercise of our supervision over the working of the whole of our machinery during the epidemic, the Colony itself was divided into three portions, consisting of three districts each; and each of the Commissioners took one of those divisions under his special charge,—an arrangement which materially facilitated the discharge of our duties.

45. These duties, we hasten to recognize, were greatly lightened by the cordial and zealous co-operation of the Boards of Guardians. The vigilance and care with which they attended to the wants of their respective districts deserve the highest commendation.

In Port Louis and in those rural districts which were visited by the epidemic, the task which devolved on the Local Boards became, as may easily be conceived, much more arduous. But the exertions with which such increased responsibilities were met by the gentlemen who had kindly consented to be the Guardians of the Poor, were, we are happy to acknowledge, in every case quite equal to the exigencies of the trial, severe and persistent as it was in some parts of the Island.

46. We have also to make mention of the readiness with which the Boards of Guardians were in all cases aided by the medical officers to whose assistance it became necessary to resort.

47. The total number of paupers in the receipt of relief on the 30th June last (including out-door paupers, the casual poor, and patients in the Poor Law Hospitals) was 1,599; which is equal to 4·9 per thousand, as compared with the total population of the Colony at that date (which amounted to 320,602).†

48. There were, besides, 564 patients receiving medical advice and relief from the Poor Law Dispensaries in Port Louis and in the rural districts.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) H. N. D. BEYTS.
JULES L. COLIN.
JOHN DOUGLAS.

His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B.,
Governor and Commander of Mauritius,
&c. &c. &c.

* No less than 505 sick prisoners were forwarded to the Pauper Hospital of Port Louis from the Vagrant Depôt.

† The total number of paupers in receipt of relief in England and Wales in January, 1867, bore the proportion of 51·8 per thousand to the total population.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

(Extract.)

Population.

The total resident population of Mauritius, on the 1st January, 1868, was estimated at 332,805, of which number 123,507 belonged to the general and 209,298 to the Indian class.

Marriages.

The number of marriages registered in the year was 409 among the general population, and 288 among the Indian. The former shows an increase of 37 on the previous year, and almost equals that of 1866, but is considerably below the average of former years.

The number of Indian marriages was only 112 in 1867, and 166 in 1866. The increase in 1868 may have been in some measure due to an improvement in the health and circumstances of the people, but was more probably an indirect effect of the new Labour Law (Ord. No. 31 of 1867), and of greater vigilance on the part of the Police in carrying out the provisions of the Indian Marriage Ordinance (Ord. No. 3 of 1856).

Births.

The total number of births registered during the year was 9,443, of which 4,706 were males, and 4,737 females. The birth-rate of the general population was 2·61, that of the Indian 2·96; the total birth-rate was 2·83. The births include those of 1,047 children whose deaths were declared at the same time, and which were stated to have occurred within the month allowed by law for the registration of births. The number of still-births, which are not reckoned either as births or deaths, was 662, being 6·5 per cent. of the total births; this ratio is lower than it was in 1867, but higher than the average of several previous years. The excess may fairly be ascribed to the debilitating effects of the epidemic; but whether the large number of still-births, and great infantile mortality, which occur every year, are entirely due to natural causes, is a question upon which grave doubts are entertained.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered of the general population was 6,454, of the Indian 12,186, total deaths 18,640; of these 11,781 were males, and 6,859 females. The annual death-rate of the general population was 5·23, of the Indian 5·82. The total death-rate was 5·60. Estimating the population of Port Louis at 65,000, the annual death-rate of the town was 10·03 per cent.; whilst that of the rest of the Island was only 4·43.

The Report thus far has been founded on statistics furnished by the Civil Status Office of Port Louis, all of which is contained in the first Table. The sequel is based on the daily and monthly returns of mortality sent from each district to the General Board of Health. The aggregate of all the deaths recorded in those returns amounts to 18,531 only; but the figures are sufficiently approximate to serve all the purposes of this Report.

The number of deaths in the first quarter of the year was 6,738, in the second 6,066, in the third 3,511, in the fourth 2,216. In other words, the ratio of deaths to total mortality in each of the four quarters respectively was 36·3, 32·7, 18·9, 11·9 per cent. The annual rate of mortality in the last quarter of the year having declined to 26 per thousand of the population (on the 1st of January).

Reference to Table No. 2 will show that the mortality rose steadily during the first three months of the year, reaching its maximum in March, when the deaths numbered 3,781. There was a considerable decrease in April, and although the mortality rose slightly in May, it gradually declined from that date, each month, with one trifling exception, showing a reduction on that which preceded.

As regards the mortality from fever alone, it will be seen from Table 3 that it followed pretty much the same course, except that there was a slight increase in the number of deaths from that cause in May as compared with April, and in November as compared with October.

Taking the districts separately, it will be found that in eight out of the nine the greatest mortality from fever, as well as other causes, occurred in March, and in five, the lowest in October. A remarkable increase of mortality is observable in May in

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the district of Grand Port, the deaths having risen to 345 from 177 in the previous month. The mortality continued excessive in that district during the three following months; it was not indeed until November that it declined to what may be considered its normal standard.

The mortality on sugar estates in the first six months of the year was double what it was in the last six. The total deaths of men, women, and children was 5,099, which, estimating the Indian population of all the estates at 98,452, gives a death-rate of 5·17 per cent. in the year. It is probable that a certain proportion of these deaths, registered as having occurred on sugar estates, were of persons who lived in their vicinity, not included in the above-estimated population. This is confirmed by the Quarterly Returns of the Medical Inspectors, which give an aggregate of between 1,400 and 1,500* adult male deaths against 2,092 returned by the Civil Status Office; although the latter is believed to be the more correct return of the two.

Fever caused the deaths of 10,923 persons, being 58·94 per cent. of the total mortality of the year, and was proportionally more fatal to the Indian population, whose death-rate from that cause was 3·76; whilst that of the general population was 2·47 per cent.

In the absence of medical certificates, the true causes of death cannot be ascertained, nor can the true character of a fever which has proved so fatal be determined. The fever which has prevailed since 1866 is generally allowed to have been malarious fever, and all the deaths registered in 1868, as from fever simply, are popularly ascribed to the reigning malady. Granting the correctness of that assumption, what has become of the fevers which caused so large a proportion of the deaths for many years prior to 1866? Were they malarious? or are we to suppose that there was nothing in common between those fevers and the late epidemic? In other words, are we to take it for granted that malarious fever never existed in this Island before 1866? or might it not be that fever having for the first time assumed an intermittent as well as an epidemic form, its true character was only then recognized?

A very fair history of fever in Mauritius may be gathered from the Military Medical Returns published in the Report of the Fever Inquiry Commission and the very interesting notes of the chief medical officer which accompany them. Those returns show that during a period of forty years upwards of two hundred cases of fever were annually admitted into hospital, the great majority of which were entered under the very vague name of "Continued Fever." We observe a few cases of remittent, a considerable number of intermittent, and a still larger proportion of typhoid. We find that the intermittent cases, few and far between at first, steadily increased until 1858, when their number reaches 17; in the following year there are 54; in 1860, 31; and in 1862, 39. As a general rule, as intermittent increases, continued fever declines, and although cases of the former are apparently accounted for by the fact that they occurred principally among newly-arrived troops from India and China or the "Essex Marshes," who were supposed to have brought the seeds of the disease with them, it seems but natural that being new arrivals, they would be more susceptible, and the fact that they so quickly succumbed would be the most conclusive proof of the existence of the malarial element in the Island.

The most fatal form of fever known in Mauritius is that which has received the name of "Bombay Fever." It is popularly supposed to be confined to Indians, and seldom to appear except in overcrowded camps. It was formerly described by medical writers as a pernicious form of bilious remittent or continued fever, generally accompanied or followed by jaundice. Examination after death invariably disclosed disease of the liver, and generally of the spleen, with more or less cerebral disease. In short, the post-mortem appearances were precisely those usually met with in cases of congestive malarious fever. This disease, about the nature of which (except as to its possible malarious origin) there never was a doubt before, is now, by some writers, boldly denominated typhoid. Now typhoid, or enteric fever, as it is now more correctly called, is not a tropical disease, although occasionally recognized in India and elsewhere; but 130 cases of typhoid in a period of 27 years are recorded in the Military Medical Returns quoted above. We do not, however, find, notwithstanding its well-known contagious character, that the disease ever spread, and it is interesting to observe that in many of the fatal cases there was an absence of that peculiar form of enteric disease which is so characteristic of true typhoid; but that there was often enlargement and softening of the spleen, which latter symptom, although occasionally met with in typhoid, is almost invariably so in fatal cases of malarious disease. It is a

* The precise number could not be ascertained, the returns from two districts being incomplete.

singular coincidence that the first case of typhoid recorded was in 1838, the very same year that Bombay fever is first mentioned to have appeared among the Indians; but no resemblance between the two diseases seems to have been noted, on the contrary, the latter is from first to last described as a pernicious bilious fever. There are also cases of typhoid recorded in the returns of 1866, which probably would have passed unnoticed but for the epidemic which followed; "when interpreted by the light of subsequent experience" they were pronounced malarious.

A careful study of this and other Reports on the subject leads to the inevitable conclusion that malarious fever (*see note*) has been endemic in this Island for very many years, gradually increasing, but so mild in its character, except among the Indians, and so insidious in its progress as apparently to have escaped detection, seldom becoming epidemic, and when so, never before 1866 appearing in the guise of an intermittent; and that Bombay fever is the most formidable type of the disease known in this Island.

Dr. Beaugeard, whose experience has been very large, writes :—"From its symptoms "and from the post-mortem examinations which I have made at the Civil Hospital, "I am of opinion that this (Bombay) fever is a remittent fever of essentially mala- "rious origin, and eminently dangerous when severe: a fever in which the compli- "cation of jaundice with organic changes in the liver and spleen are always the "predominant characteristics." He also states that the largest number of cases he had ever met with in any one year was in 1867, the most fatal year of the epidemic.

There are points of interest in connection with three sugar estates which the epidemic visited with peculiar severity during the latter part of last year, which are worthy of notice. These estates are "Colmar" and "Bel Ombre" in Savanne, and "Black River" estate in the district of that name. The class of Indians particularly affected at "Colmar" and "Black River" were newly-engaged immigrants from Bourbon. At "Colmar" the epidemic, which at that time prevailed throughout the district, assumed in the severest cases the form of Bombay fever, and proved very fatal. At Black River the cases varied in type from the simple intermittent to the severest form of malarious disease, the majority of deaths resulting from the sequelæ of fever, as dropsy, dysentery, &c. The estate of Bel Ombre was at an early period of the epidemic the only locality in the district of Savanne in which fever existed, and it was attended with frightful mortality; but Bel Ombre is surrounded by all the conditions favourable to the production of malaria, and, according to the testimony of Dr. Bolton, Bombay fever has existed there "off and on" for years; he also states that he had never seen a case of typhus in Mauritius, although he believed typhoid had been common for some years, but he traces no connection between the latter and Bombay fever. The local outbreak at Bel Ombre having subsided, was succeeded by others, as the epidemic advanced, which proved almost as fatal as the first. No fewer than 180 deaths are recorded to have occurred on the estate during the past year.

In the face of these facts and opinions it is submitted that, without further proof, it would be premature to pronounce a disease to be typhoid which for thirty years has been described by medical writers, civil and military, as a disease of a totally different character. If typhoid fever were endemic in Port Louis, as is supposed by some persons, the probability is that, in consequence of its bad sanitary condition, the rate of mortality in the town would be far higher than it is.

Diarrhœa, dysentery, and other diseases of the bowels caused 2,714 deaths, a large proportion of which were probably malarious; the same may be said of anœmia, cachexia, and dropsy, which were assigned as the causes of 773 and 188 deaths respectively. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 1,702 deaths. There were 89 deaths from tetanus, 23 of which occurred among the general population; 17 from rheumatism; 68 from worms; 37 from erysipelas; 39 from leprosy; 28 from cancer; 28 from gangrene; 32 from syphilis (mostly Indians, and among them three children); 2 from measles; 1 from carbuncle; 1 scurvy; 3 insanity; 4 glanders; 4 hydrophobia; 282 from old age (most probably exhaustion from repeated attacks of fever); 16 from nostalgia (all these were Chinese); and 336 from accident or violence, including 64 cases of suicide, 61 of which occurred among the Indian population.

(Signed) C. F. EDWARDS, M.R.C.S.,
Acting Officer of the Civil Status.

NOTE.

By Malarious Fever is meant a febrile disease generally intermittent or remittent in its character, sometimes continued, distinguishable from all other zymotic diseases by

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its symptoms or post-mortem appearances, when taken in conjunction with the time of year, climate, soil, country, and other considerations, and caused by a specific poison called by systematic writers "Malaria."

By this term scientific writers do not mean *foul* air, but rather injurious air whose presence indeed may often be reasonably suspected, although it is imperceptible to our senses. Of its physical or chemical properties we really know nothing, and are made aware of its existence only by its noxious effects.

It may be thus defined: an aeriform terrestrial emanation requiring for its production (1) a certain amount of moisture, (2) a certain amount of heat, (3) a surface capable of absorbing both heat and moisture, often co-existing with the product of vegetable decomposition, although not proved to depend on such decomposition, and entirely independent of animal decomposition.

Vide Watson, Aitken, Morehead.

C. F. E.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

We have the honour to submit the following Interim-Report on the subject matter of our inquiry:—

On being informed by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary in his letter, dated the 3rd April last, that we had been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to investigate the working of Ordinance No. 31 of 1867, we hastened to seek for the information which we required from the best sources whence it could be gathered. Besides consulting the results obtained in our respective departments, we called upon the Stipendiary Magistrates for their remarks on the operation of the Ordinance, and requested the District Clerks and District Cashiers to furnish us with various particulars with which it was necessary for us to become acquainted.

2. We have not yet received all the answers we should require to be able to present as exhaustive a report as we should wish on every point that falls within the scope of our investigation; but in regard to one part of the law in question, that which seems to be chiefly pointed to by the instructions which we have received, namely, the provisions relative to the registration of old immigrants not under written contracts of service, we consider that our inquiries have proceeded quite far enough to allow us to submit a report without any further delay.

3. We have carefully examined into the working of those provisions, and are led to believe that far from having proved a failure, they have been highly successful in accomplishing the objects of the Legislature, so far as it was sought to ascertain what number of old immigrants were not under indentures, where they dwelt, and what were their occupations.

4. Corrected estimates brought down to the close of 1868 show that the total number of males of the Indian population then amounted to 141,391.

5. The Indian population consists of the three following classes:—1. Indians who have come to the Colony as free passengers; 2. Indian Creoles; 3. Indians who have bene introduced as Coolies, *i. e.*, as indentured immigrants.

6. The Indians of the two first classes are not subject to the enactments which prescribe local registration, nor are they bound by law to exhibit tickets and passes to prove their identity.

7. It has been the practice in the Police Department to register free Indian passengers of the labouring class, and to issue tickets to them with a view to protect them from the annoyance to which they would be subject if they were left unprovided with a documentary proof of their not being Coolie immigrants. It is worthy of consideration whether the practice should not be legalized, so that free Indian passengers of the labouring class and Indian immigrants, who have gone through their industrial residence, should be made to stand exactly on the same footing.

8. It seems, moreover, advisable that Indian Creoles of the labouring class who now form a large number should also be brought under the regulations relative to tickets and passes.

9. The precise numbers of free Indian passengers and Indian Creoles respectively we are not in a position to state, there being no records from which we can derive any positive information in that respect. We think, however, that the following estimations are approximately correct:—

	Males.
Free Indian passengers - - - - -	9,000
Indian Creoles - - - - - -	17,000
Total - - - - -	26,000

10. A return just compiled by the Harbour Master, giving the arrivals and departures of free Indian passengers from the 8th April 1861 to the end of 1868, shows an excess of 4,600 males in the arrivals compared to the departures. We therefore assume that we have not overrated the total number of male free Indians in the Colony.

Nor do we think our estimation of the number of Indian Creoles exaggerated, considering that since the beginning of Indian immigration (1834) the male births in the Indian population have amounted to 43,845.

11. Assuming the estimated amount of the two above-mentioned classes of the Indian population to be correct, and the children under 10 years of age in the Coolie immigrant class to amount to 13,391 (rather less than 12 per cent.), we should have 102,000 male adults remaining as the number of Coolie immigrants who are governed by the special laws relative to tickets and passes, and are liable to the system of local registration brought into practice by Ordinance 31 of 1867.

12. The returns which we have received show that out of those 102,000 Indian immigrants, about 100,000 may be considered as thus distributed:

1. Engaged in 1868, according to the Stipendiary Magistrates' last returns - - - - - -	64,290
2. New immigrants and others whose engagements did not expire in 1868,—about - - - - -	4,000
3. Remaining under Police passes - - - -	29,367
* 4. Vagrant prisoners ‡ - - - - - -	800
† 5. Other prisoners ‡ - - - - - -	900
6. Paupers ‡ - - - - - - -	600
7. Immigrants under "permits to work" pending inquiries -	100
	100,057

13. We thus find that there only remain about 2,000 Indian immigrants to be accounted for. We are inclined to believe that many of these are working on verbal engagements as domestics or otherwise, and have not yet presented themselves for registration. In order that they should be compelled to comply with the requirements of the new law, we should recommend the passing of a regulation attaching a penalty to the non-observance of the provisions relative to registration.

14. As for the vagrants remaining unarrested, we believe that their number is daily being reduced by the system now followed.

15. In conclusion, we beg to repeat that those provisions of the new Labour Ordinance to which we have specially alluded in this report seem to us to have worked as successfully as could have been anticipated, and that they are manifestly accomplishing the main object which the Legislature had in view in framing them, namely, the repression of vagrancy by the exercise of a systematic and well-organized control over the movements of the labouring classes.

16. We forward herewith a return (marked B) § showing the declared occupations of the immigrants who, not being under written contracts, have taken passes and undergone registration. As soon as the other statements which we have called for will have reached us, we shall submit our views regarding the amendments which the regulations relative to passes and jobmen's licences seem to us to require. We shall at the same time take the liberty of pointing out the changes which we think it is desirable to make in the Ordinance itself.

(Signed) H. N. D. BEYTS.
J. T. N. O'BRIEN.
O. D'EMMEREZ DE CHARMOY.

7th June, 1869.

* There were 1,278 vagrants of all classes undergoing punishment on the 15th May last.

† The total number of Indian prisoners of all classes (not including vagrants) was 1,462 on the 15th May last.

‡ Coolie immigrants only are here referred to.

§ Not reprinted.

Enclosure 4 in No. 4.

Port Louis Prisons.

THE following are the chief statistics of the Port Louis Prisons for the year 1868:—

1. Number of prisoners remaining in prison on the 31st December, 1867 - 388
Number of prisoners committed to prison during the year 1868 - - 2,414

Total - - - - - 2,802

Number of prisoners remaining on prison books on 31st December, 1868, 529.

2. The following table shows the number of prisoners committed in 1867 and in 1868 by the Courts whose prisoners were received in the Port Louis prisons, as also the increase in the committals on a comparison of these two years.

Year of the Committal to Prison.	By the Stipendiary Magistrate.	By the Police Magistrate.	District Magistrates.			Debtors.	Naval and Military Courts.	Remanded for Trial.	Total.
			Merchant Shipping Act.	Civil side.	Criminal side.				
In 1867 - -	21	1518	73	46	1038	17	1	125	2839
„ 1868 - - -	57	1006	181	46	864	13	2	245	2414
Increase - -	36	—	108	—	—	—	1	120	—
Decrease - - -	—	512	—	—	174	4	—	—	425

3. The prisoners condemned by the Court of Assize for felony during the year were in all 111.

For statistics in criminal cases which amount to felony, see Chapter on Crime.

4. The following statement shows the great divisions of the world to which the prisoners committed belonged; and also the number of natives of each:—

EUROPE -	United Kingdom - - -	264	315
	Other countries - - -	51	
ASIA - - -	Bombay Presidency - -	175	1,561
	Madras - - - -	746	
	Bengal - - - -	603	
	Other countries - - -	37	
AFRICA - -	Mauritius - - - -	458	509
	Other countries - - -	51	
AMERICA - -	West Indies - - - -	6	29
	Other countries - - - -	23	
			2,414

5. The committals by the Stipendiary Magistrate to these prisons are few in number, and consist of European and female vagrants—the great majority of his committals being to the Vagrant Depôt. During the year there were—

6 male European vagrants committed, and
51 Indian females ditto ditto

57, or an increase of 36 as compared with the committals of 1867. This increase is owing chiefly to a number of females having been sent to prison for begging in the public streets.

6. The committals by the Police Magistrate during the last five years were as follows, viz.:—

In 1864 there were	-	-	-	-	3,048
„ 1865 „	-	-	-	-	2,720
„ 1866 „	-	-	-	-	2,479
„ 1867 „	-	-	-	-	1,518
„ 1868 „	-	-	-	-	1,006

The committals in this class of prisoners, it will be seen, have been steadily decreasing since 1864. Probably many who would in former years be committed to prison by the Police Magistrate are now taken before the Stipendiary Magistrate for vagrancy and committed to the Vagrant Depôt. This may, in some measure, account for the decrease; but I believe that the well-known strictness and rigour of the discipline enforced now in the prisons have their share in reducing the number of committals, because many now pay, before committal, the fines imposed on them by the magistrate, who, if a milder system obtained, would keep the money and undergo the few days' imprisonment awarded for non-payment.

7. The committals for offences under the Merchant Shipping Act were, viz.:—

102 in the year	-	-	-	-	1864
90 „	-	-	-	-	1865
72 „	-	-	-	-	1866
73 „	-	-	-	-	1867
181 „	-	-	-	-	1868

being an increase of 108 last year as compared with 1867.

8. The number of committals of fraudulent debtors is the same in 1868 as in 1867, viz., 46.

The committals in 1864 were			-	-	59
„ 1865 „	-	-	-	-	50
„ 1866 „			-	-	57
„ 1867 „	-		-	-	46
„ 1868 „			-	-	46

9. The following is a table of the committals by the District Magistrates in the criminal side :—

Offence.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
Larceny - - - - - - - - - - -	1498	1232	1572	742	549
Assault - - - - - - - - - - -	215	210	174	92	88
Licence contravention - - - - - - - -	36	14	11	13	5
In possession of gandia - - - - - - - -	85	44	29	12	10
Receiving stolen goods - - - - - - -	21	15	86	21	30
Adultery - - - - - - - - - - -	10	7	8	3	—
Enticing away and harbouring married women - -	4	—	6	1	3
Other offences - - - - - - - - - -	338	187	134	154	179
	2207	1709	2020	1038	864

The number of committals from this source has decreased greatly during the last five years. In 1864 the committals reached 2,207, whilst in 1868 there were only 864, or nearly two-thirds fewer than in 1864. There is little doubt that the epidemic of 1867 was the chief cause of this diminution.

10. The proportion of larcenies to the total committals by the District Magistrates was 63·54 per cent., or a decrease as compared with the proportion in 1867 of 7·84. This percentage is the lowest during the last five years, as will be perceived from the following figures, viz.:—

In 1864 the percentage was			-	-	67·85
„ 1865 „	-	-	-	-	72·08
„ 1866 „			-	-	77·82
„ 1867 „	-	-	-	-	71·38
„ 1868 „			-	-	63·54

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11. Of committals for debt, the following is a comparative statement for the last five years, viz.:—

In 1864 there were	54
„ 1865 „	23
„ 1866 „	18
„ 1867 „	17
„ 1868 „	13

12. There were only two military prisoners committed to prison during 1868, under sentences of courts martial.

13. The following is a statement of untried prisoners committed to the House of Detention since the year 1864 inclusive, viz.:—

In 1864 there were	339
„ 1865 „	260
„ 1866 „	409
„ 1867 „	125
„ 1868 „	245

being an increase, in 1868 of 120, as compared with the committals in 1867.

14. The highest number locked up in prison on any one night during the year 1868 was 563, and the lowest 294.

15. The nightly average number of prisoners on the *strength* of the prisons locked up since 1864, is as follows, viz.:—

In 1864 it was	684
„ 1865 „	586
„ 1866 „	727
„ 1867 „	637
„ 1868 „	491

These averages do not include the prisoners at Flat Island. The average lock-up there was as follows, viz.:—

In 1864 it was	47
„ 1865 „	46
„ 1866 „	58
„ 1867 „	52
„ 1868 „	193

16. The total admissions to Hospital for serious cases of sickness in the year was 1195, *i.e.*,

To Prisoners' Hospital	1,187 (males).
„ Civil ditto	8 (females).

17. The deaths in 1868 were:—

In Prisoners' Hospital	23
„ Civil ditto	2
At Flat Island	4
Total	29

18. The following is a statement of the death-rate per cent. per annum of the whole strength of the prisoners on the prison books, viz.:—

In 1864 it was	4·68
„ 1865 „	3·67
„ 1866 „	3·86
„ 1867 „	11·03
„ 1868 „	4·24

or a mean average for the five years of 5·49. This mean average, I consider, proves that the sanitary state of the prisons is very favourable, for it will be noticed that it includes the percentage for the year 1867, when the fever epidemic raged through the town and district of Port Louis, sweeping off not less than one-fourth of the population.

These annual averages include the prisoners at Flat Island, who were unaccounted for in previous reports.

19. The following is a statement of each class of prisoners who died during the year, including the deaths at Flat Island, viz. :—

Class.	E.	C.	I.	Total.
Felons	—	3	11	14
Misdemeanants	—	1	11	12
Police Court	—	1	1	2
Untried	—	—	1	1
Total	—	5	24	29

And the subjoined the periods of imprisonment undergone previous to their being sent to Hospital :—

Sent on day of admission to prison	1
„ within 14 days after admisssion to prison	5
„ after more than 14 days, less than 1 month	1
„ „ 1 month „ 3 „	8
„ „ 3 „ „ 6 „	2
„ „ 6 „ „ 12 „	2
„ after upwards of 1 year's imprisonment	10

20. The punishments for prison offences are shown in the following statement. They were curtailing of rations, solitary confinement, wearing chains, and flogging.

	Minor punishments.	Flogging.
In 1864 there were	2,086	17
„ 1865 „	2,012	51
„ 1866 „	4,236	6
„ 1867 „	3,144	12
„ 1868 „	1,315	43

The number of punishments inflicted for breach of prison discipline is considerably lower in 1868 than in previous years. This is due to the fact of the location of about 200 felons—who at Port Louis worked inside the prison—at the Quarantine Station, Flat Island, away from the influence of strict and constant surveillance.

21. There were 25 escapes from outdoor working parties, and two from the Prisoners' Hospital during the year. The following is an annual statement of escapes since 1864, viz. :—

In 1864	82
„ 1865	77
„ 1866	27
„ 1867	44
„ 1868	27

Of the escapes from the Hospital included in the number for 1868, it may be stated that the prisoners (Creoles), though they quitted the Hospital, had no intention of effecting a real escape. They merely left the Hospital, with the connivance of the guard on duty, on a spree with their friends and relatives for a few hours, returning of their own accord.

22. The following statement shows the number of escaped prisoners recaptured and brought back to prison annually since 1864 :—

In 1864	43
„ 1865	55
„ 1866	19
„ 1867	36
„ 1868	30

23. The following is a list of prisoners who were granted by his Excellency remission of a portion of their sentences during the year :—

1ST.—FELONS.

No.	Name.	Country.	Date of Sentence.	Crime.	Fine. £ s. d.	Sentence. years. month. days.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.
241	Joseph Camjee - -	Mauritius	6 June, 1867	Larceny by means of breaking -	—	6 0 0	16 Sept., 1868	Ill health.
229	John Morgan - - -	Wales -	17 Sept., 1866	Attempt on chastity - - -	—	2 0 0	4 Aug., 1868	By order of his Excellency, in consequence of a favourable opportunity of sending him to England to join his regiment.
259	Pereanen - - -	Madras -	17 March, 1864	Larceny at night, armed, and having stolen property in his possession.	—	10 0 0	17 July, 1868	Nearly blind; delivered to Protector of Immigrants for deportation.
290	Thomas O'Toole - -	Ireland -	31 May, 1864	Embezzlement by a public depository.	2209 5 1	6 0 0	30 May, 1868	Good conduct; assisting in repressing violence to a prison guard by another prisoner, and services in Hospital during epidemic of 1867.
236	Jean Epidariste Fevrier	Mauritius	15 March, 1864	Larceny at night, with breaking -	—	10 0 0	20 May, 1868	Ill health.
44	Frederic Letourdi -	Ditto	14 March, 1860	Larceny at night, by violence - -	—	20 0 0	14 March, 1868	Ditto.
285	Joseph Masson - -	Ditto	3 June, 1864	Embezzlement - - - -	—	5 0 0	4 March, 1868	Ditto.
203	Carpen - - -	Madras -	1 Dec., 1863	Larceny at night, by breaking - -	—	5 0 0	1 Sept., 1868	

2ND.—MISDEMEANANTS.

No.	Name.	Country.	Date of Sentence.	Crime.	Fine. £ s. d.	Costs. £ s. d.	Sentence. year. month. days.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.
—	Seebarano, *alias* Joseph	Mauritius	13 April, 1868	Receiving stolen property - - -	—	0 2 0	1 0 1	13 Oct., 1868	Remission in Petition.
—	Jean Pierre, 1st Warrant	Ditto	17 Oct., 1865	Larceny during the night, by breaking	—	0 3 6	1 0 1		
—	2nd „	Ditto	30 Oct., 1865	Larceny of several cases of brandy - -	—	0 3 6	1 0 1		
—	3rd „	Ditto	23 Oct., 1865	Larceny of joiners' tools - - -	—	0 14 2	1 0 3	1 Aug., 1868	Ditto.

24. No prisoner was executed during the year.

25. The number of visits to condemned prisoners was 1,191, and of visitors 1,526.

26. During the year 240 fines, amounting to 312*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, were received at the prisons on account of Government and the Municipality.

27. The following is a statement of the nature and amounts of remunerative labour performed by prisoners in prison during the year, and also the estimated value of the labour of prisoners employed at public works, but for which cash payments are not received:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Labour for which cash is received at the prisons -	356	3	9¼
2. Labour supplied to public departments for which payment is not made:—			
26,748 days' labour for the Surveyor-General's Department, valued at 6*d.* per day - -	668	12	0
16,909 days' labour for the Port Department, valued at 6*d.* per day	422	14	6
	1,091	6	6
3. Works done in the prisons for the public, with the estimated value of such work - - -	336	16	4
Total value of labour, exclusive of that expended in cleaning, cooking, &c.	£1,784	14	9¼

28. The following is a comparative statement of collections for labour of male prisoners and handicrafts, &c., inside the prison since 1864 inclusive:—

Nature of Work.	1864.			1865.			1866.			1867.			1868.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Tailors - - - -	2	8	6	3	14	4	27	17	3	143	5	11	81	3	1
Stone breakers - - -	23	18	6	65	3	0	65	15	10	134	13	4	45	6	5
Shoemakers - - -		—		34	19	5	88	4	11	118	8	11	94	4	11
Net makers - - - -	48	0	0¼	38	13	0¾	35	6	8¾	48	11	10¾	23	17	5
Oakum picking - - -	71	8	9	104	0	0	45	12	0	24	15	0	61	1	5¾
Basket making - - -	0	18	5	1	0	6	6	14	6	7	12	1	7	17	3
Carpenters - - -		—		0	4	8	3	10	2	2	17	4	21	6	2
Mattress making - - -		—			—		2	7	8	2	2	9	5	16	4
Mat making - - -	0	17	6	5	14	6	2	12	4	1	12	10	6	14	6
Tinsmith - - - -	0	8	1		—		0	5	8	0	5	7	0	3	9
Sugar-bags making - -	9	2	1¾		—			—			—			—	

29. The reimbursement in cash from all sources in aid of the expenses incurred by Government for the establishments amounted to 365*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

30. The following table* shows the number of days on which the prisoners were employed at the different kinds of labour, and also those not employed at labour, with the reason for such non-employment:—

Grand Total - - - - £157,163

31. There has been no change in the arrangements of the female prison during the year, although that prison requires to be enlarged.

There were 209 females committed during the year. The highest number locked up was 40; the lowest, 13.

It must be observed that accommodation is provided in the female ward for only 30 prisoners. But, at the same time, ameliorations have been effected in the female dormitories, which are now in a more satisfactory state than before.

32. Upon the whole the arrangements for the comfort of the prisoners leave nothing to be desired. The prisoners are clean and kept in perfect order; there is abundance of water; the food of the prisoners is both good and sufficient; and filters have been provided for the use of the prisoners.

It has been also my pleasure to record, more than once, as President of the Prison Committee, the approbation of the Prison Committee with respect to the cleanliness, comfort, and order which reign in the Prisoners' Hospital at Trou Fanfaron.

The decrease in the number of prisoners admitted into this Hospital arises no doubt in a great measure from the prompt attention given at the first appearance of sickness

* This table is not printed in detail.

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amongst prisoners, to the regular supply of proper medicines, and to the sufficiency of the diet supplied to the convalescents in their recovery. The free use of disinfectants, and the scrupulous cleanliness of the prisoners and the prison dormitories have no doubt greatly contributed to bring about this favourable result.

33. In conclusion, I add that, although during the year 1868 the repeated attacks of fever from which all the prison officers have more or less suffered, and the frequency of sickness among the prison guards have made the task of carrying on the management of the prison one of great difficulty, yet, by their zeal and devotion to their duties, the prison officers have been able to maintain the establishment in a state of perfect efficiency.

(Signed) JULES L. COLIN,
President of the Prison Committee.

27th April, 1869.

(No. 211.)

Crime.

The tabular statement annexed* to this Report shows the criminal cases tried by jury at the Supreme Court of Mauritius from the year 1864 to 1868 inclusively.

2. After examining that table and taking into consideration the great reduction which sickness has made in the population of the Colony since 1866, and especially the fact that the recent epidemic swept with marked severity through those classes of the community whence criminals arise, I regret to say there can be no doubt that the commission of crime is on the increase.

3. Notwithstanding the continued falling off of the population, the total numbers of cases tried and of persons convicted during 1868 exceeded the corresponding totals of each of the four preceding years, excepting 1866, thus:—

Population.		No. of Cases.	No. of Persons convicted.
On 31st December, 1864	341,324	72	111
" " 1865	360,255	64	95
" " 1866	364,949	101	151
" " 1867	332,805	68	105
" " 1868	323,608	75	114

4. The cases and persons tried stood as follows with regard to the distribution of crime throughout the Colony:—

From the District of	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons convicted.
Port Louis	27	48
Pamplemousses	10	23
Riviere du Rempart	2	2
Flacq	13	27
Grand Port	7	17
Savanne	3	3
Plaines Wilhems	3	13
Moka	10	19
Black River	—	—
Total	75	152

And the nationality or race of those offenders are thus:—

Indians	117
Creoles (of the ex-apprentice population)	27
Arabs	3
French (aliens)	2
Chinese	1
Creoles (French)	1
English	1
Total	152

* Not printed.

5. There were, moreover, 47 cases and 80 persons that the Procureur-General decided upon not taking to the assizes, though committed thither by the District Magistrates. The prosecutions in these matters were either abandoned on account of the absence of proper evidence, or were finally disposed of by the Magistrate on the class of the offence being reduced from felony to misdemeanour.

6. The general table shows a remarkable decrease in the number of murders and of persons tried for that crime; but as there is a large increase under the heading of manslaughter, it is probable there has only been a slight diminution in the crime of murder, and that much of the apparent amelioration is attributable to the fact that several cases of murder were necessarily classified as manslaughter, because premeditation on the part of the offender could not be established.

7. Three persons were condemned to death for murder during 1868, but in no case did the circumstances warrant the extreme penalty of the law being carried out concerning them; and their sentences were therefore respectively commuted to twenty years' imprisonment with hard labour.

8. The following statement shows that (setting aside the year 1865) there has been a steady increase of late in cases of serious wounds and blows often causing death :—

Year.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1864	7	10
1865	3	5
1866	9	14
1867	11	35
1868	16	22

It is necessary to state, however, that many of the cases in 1867 and 1868 derived their gravity not from the savage nature of the attacks, but from the bodily injuries occasioned, the assault having been committed on persons whose spleen was so diseased by fever that the rupture of that organ was produced by blows which would have caused little or no indisposition to men in ordinary health.

9. Cases of burglary committed by large bands of men appear also to have increased, while highway robberies remained at about the average to which the establishment of the railways seems to have reduced them.

LARCENIES CARRIED OUT BY VIOLENCE.

Year.	Burglaries.		Highway Robberies.		Total.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons convicted.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons convicted.
1864	19	64	5	13	24	77
1865	7	12	3	14	10	26
1866	14	49	1	1	15	50
1867	5	12	2	5	7	17
1868	16	52	2	4	18	56

10. On the other hand, there was a remarkable diminution as regards important larcenies committed by servants on their employers.

Domestic Larcenies.		
Year.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1864	2	2
1865	8	12
1866	13	26
1867	10	21
1868	1	3

I cannot but consider that the satisfactory decrease in this crime is a result of the Portrait Ticket and Police Pass system, which was established by the Consolidated Labour Ordinance No. 31 of 1867.

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As a rule, offences of this class are committed by household servants who are old immigrants, and who under the former law could wander unrestrainedly throughout the Colony. To these persons the perpetration of such thefts was attended with almost certain impunity if they succeeded (which it was easy to do) in obtaining false papers, or in escaping to a distant part of the Island. But under the present law, the obligation of ever carrying with them a ticket bearing their portrait, and of communicating with the police previous to any change of their residence or occupation, renders detection and capture almost inevitable, and has, I believe, acted efficiently as a deterrent on that large section of the community.

11. Though, as above shown in paragraph 9, there was certainly no decrease in the amount of crime having gain for its object and executed with violence, there was a startling augmentation in offences committed against property, and carried out by subtlety and cunning.

Year.	Embezzlement.		Forgery.		Swindling, &c.		Fraudulent Bankruptcy.		Total.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1864 - - -	4	4	5	6	2	2	—	—	11	12
1865 - - -	1	1	6	10	—	—	—	—	7	11
1866 - - -	3	3	6	8	—	—	—	—	9	11
1867 - - -	2	2	5	5	—	—	—	—	7	7
1868 - - -	3	4	7	12	3	3	1	1	14	20

This increase is probably due in some degree to the pecuniary embarrassments which were general during the epidemic of 1867, and to the impossibility of obtaining employment during the commercial crisis which followed the hurricane of 1868. Among the offenders there was an unusually large number recruited from the better ranks of society, and whose reputation had hitherto been spotless.

There was nothing worthy of special remark connected with any of these crimes, except as regards two of the cases of forgery, and the single case of fraudulent bankruptcy.

In one of the cases of forgery the accused was the manager of a licensed warehouse, wherein large consignments of sugars were stored. He had power to issue certificates of the quantities of goods which he thus held for estate owners, and on the faith of the veracity of these certificates, supported by other guarantees, the banks were accustomed to advance large sums of money to the planters. During several years (at the instigation of an accomplice, who effected his escape from the Colony when the forgery was discovered) this storekeeper had issued a number of false certificates for sugars which he did not really hold, and at the trial it was shown that more than 10,000*l.* was then due to the banks for advances made on those certificates. This is the most important case of forgery on record.

Another case brought to light an organized system of fraud upon the banks by means of forged cheques. The duty of one of the gang was to obtain cheques for small amounts from Arab merchants in exchange for gold coin which he sold to them. The Arabs were selected in preference to other traders, as they are seldom able to write out the cheque, and the banks are thus only familiar with their signatures. Another of the forgers used then to delete from the cheque, by chemical aid, the amount and the name of the drawer, and a third would insert another name and a larger amount. The cheque was then presented at the bank and cashed. These forgeries were perpetrated with remarkable skilfulness, and had been carried on successfully for several months. The band consisted for the most part of French aliens of a very low class, who with others of the same standing had given, and still continue to give, much trouble to the police authorities. It may be mentioned here that for some time past the attention of the Government has been directed to the increasing number of arrivals of vagabond foreigners and adventurers of both sexes (being for the most part outcasts from the neighbouring Island of Reunion), and that exertions are being made, as far as compatible with our laws and constitution, to prevent these strangers from being harboured here, and from preying upon the Colony.

The case of fraudulent bankruptcy above indicated deserves notice, as being the first instance in which that offence was the subject of criminal prosecution in Mauritius, although there was good reason to believe that such dishonest practices had long been

far from uncommon among the insolvent traders of the Colony. The offender was convicted of having fabricated account books with a view to defraud his creditors, and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. This example, which was much needed, will I doubt not have a beneficial effect upon a certain class of the commercial community.

Cases of arson were unusually numerous, the number tried being higher than that of any one of the three previous years :—

Cases of Arson.				
1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
9		7	4	9

There were, moreover, a great many cases of this crime which were not brought into court on account of the legal proof of guilt obtainable being too slender to warrant the expectation of a successful prosecution. Indeed, it was found to be so very difficult to obtain evidence in such cases, especially when the property was insured, that to remedy the evil an Ordinance (No. 17 of 1868) was introduced, requiring the district magistrates to make a judicial investigation into every case of fire, whether apparently caused by accident or otherwise, and empowering them to examine on oath anyone likely to be cognizant of the facts of the occurrence. This law is well calculated to further the ends of justice by rendering escape from detection all but impossible to incendiaries.

The conviction of offenders of this class was, moreover, obtained with increased difficulty from juries, on account of the judges having of late held that the Penal Code did not allow them to award for arson a lesser sentence than twenty years' imprisonment. The consequence of this reading of the law was that in ordinary cases the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" rather than aid in the infliction of so disproportionate a sentence. However, the Penal Code has since been modified (Ordinance 5 of 1869) in this respect, and the minimum penalty for arson is now four years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Notwithstanding the large number of acquittals which were given under the circumstances just mentioned, it will be seen from the following table that the prosecutions throughout the year 1868 were unusually successful, and that (except as regards the year 1867) there were fewer acquittals as compared with convictions than in the former years:—

Year.	No. of Persons Acquitted.	No. of Persons Convicted.
1864	75	111
1865	36	95
1866	85	151
1867	28	105
1868	38	114

The total cost of the criminal proceedings taken before the Supreme Court throughout the year amounted to 1,965*l.* 19*s.*, being about 26*l.* 4*s.* per case, or 17*l.* 4*s.* per person convicted.

(Signed) J. L. COLIN,
Proctor and Advocate-General.

11th June, 1869.

Enclosure 5 in No. 4.

LEGISLATION, 1868.

The most important law passed during the year 1868 was the Ordinance No. 19, intituled "An Ordinance to repeal certain of the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Civil Code, and of the Colonial Ordinances relative to Sales of Immovable Properties."

The law regulating the forms and effects of judicial sales of immovable property in Mauritius had hitherto been the French law as contained in the Codes promulgated in this Colony on the 1st Brumaire, An. XIV., and 20th July, 1808. On one side, the formalities required by that law before an estate could be sold and the sale price distributed among the creditors were so cumbersome and expensive, that capitalists were deterred from investing their money in real property. On the other side, it was so difficult to clear the occult claims by which an immovable property was affected, and to give a safe title to the purchaser, that most moneyed men hesitated to vest their capital in landed property. These and other kindred evils had been felt in all countries whose legislation on this subject was based on the old French law, and radical modifications on their several systems had been successively introduced in those countries, but no amendment of any importance had been made in the law of Mauritius.

After a careful study of the revised legislation upon this matter in France, Germany, Belgium, and Italy, the Ordinance No. 19 of 1868 was, with public applause, adopted by the Colonial Legislature.

The Ordinance is a complete amendment of a very intricate part of the machinery of our legal system, and it embraces so many important points that a review of its provisions could not be made, even superficially, within the proper limits of this report.

I have only to state that when the rural credit of the Colony was sinking under the depressing effect of successive droughts and of the late fearful epidemy of fever, the measures with respect to the management and the disposal of real property in Mauritius which were provided in the new law, may be said to have contributed to save our Colonial agriculture from ruin.

No. 11.

"An Ordinance to amend the laws which provide for the Relief of the Poor."

The Poor Relief administration in Mauritius had been entrusted since the year 1853 to Committees or Boards elected by the suffrage of the ratepayers in the districts. For a very short time the system seemed to work, but it was soon evident that on account of the abuses of the system the district ratepayers had become not only indifferent but hostile to the privileges conferred on them.

In a community where the population consists of such various races as are found in Mauritius—Europeans, white Creoles, Mulattoes, and Indians, Mussulmans, ex-apprentices—the feelings of the community had long been that the relief of the poor and the public health ought to be entrusted to an administrative organization independent of popular elections.

This Ordinance was framed for the purpose of concentrating into the hands of a central commission the powers formerly vested in district boards.

The Poor Law Commission at starting had not only to discharge the debts and liabilities of the late bankrupt Poor Relief Boards, but it was called upon to face, with limited resources, the disastrous epidemy of the Mauritius fever. In spite of all difficulties, the system established by this Ordinance has been found perfectly efficient. The relief of the poor has been carried on with efficacy, and after a long experiment it may now be said that the system has achieved an unexampled success.

No. 20.

"An Ordinance to make more effectual provisions for establishing Public Hospitals and Public Dispensaries in Mauritius."

Shortly after the creation of the Poor Law Commission, under the Ordinance just noticed, a difference of opinion arose between it and the General Board of Health as to the duties and extent thereof, of either body to provide medical aid in times of sickness, and to establish and maintain hospitals and dispensaries. Under the law then existing, the burden in these respects clearly fell on the sanitary authorities, though the Poor

Law Commission was also bound in an undefined degree to assist in such matters. At a Conference held between both bodies, it was resolved that the whole of those special duties should henceforth be performed by the Poor Law Commission, within whose province they naturally came. As it is most desirable that the administration should not suffer by a conflict of authority in this important branch, a law was introduced to give effect to their joint recommendation, and experience has since shown the wisdom of that arrangement.

No. 17.

"An Ordinance for instituting Judicial Investigations in cases of Fire."

By this law an exceptional mode of criminal investigation was introduced as regards fires. It had constantly occurred, on the destruction by fire of crop, forest land, or insured property, that, partly on account of the nature of the crime of arson, and partly through the unwillingness of persons to be the first accusers of supposed incendiaries, the police had been unable to obtain any clue to guide them in ascertaining whether the conflagration was the result of malice or of accident. By the present law this uncertainty is all but impossible, as the magistrate of each district is bound to investigate thoroughly every case of fire by examining on oath any person whom he considers is likely to know the facts of the accident or crime. It is confidently expected the Ordinance will effect the twofold result of deterring persons from the commission of the offence of arson, and of rendering the detection of such criminals a matter of certainty.

No. 13.

"An Ordinance to alter and amend the law relating to Quay Dues."

A difference of opinion arose between the officers of the Customs and the Chamber of Commerce as to whether Quay Dues should be levied according to English or French weights, a practice of long standing having obtained for the collection of those fees on some goods by English weight, and by French weight on others. As the law on the point partially admitted of a favourable interpretation in either sense, an Ordinance was introduced to make all Quay Dues, like those of the Customs, leviable by Imperial weights; and advantage was taken of the opportunity to alter the classification of the goods to suit the present state of the commerce of the Colony.

No. 18.

"An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the Fraudulent Marking of Merchandise."

The Chamber of Commerce of this Colony having represented to the Government the urgency of rendering more stringent and comprehensive the law prohibitory to the sale, &c., of goods bearing false marks, this Ordinance was introduced to check the evils which such dishonest practices are likely to cause to trade. Its provisions are mostly taken from the Statute 25 & 26 Vic., c. 88, and it contains a scheme, borrowed from the French legislation, for the registering of trade marks. The protection afforded to the public by the passing of this law has been generally appreciated.

No. 2.

"An Ordinance to repeal certain provisions of the Code of Commerce relative to Compulsory Arbitration in cases of dispute between Partners concerning the affairs of their Partnership, and to give jurisdiction to the ordinary Courts of Law within this Colony and its Dependencies for the trial of such cases."

According to the French Code of Commerce which is in force in Mauritius, disputes between partners concerning their partnership were excluded from the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of law, and could only be tried by a commercial tribunal, consisting of arbitrators; but this system, however excellent in theory, had long been found to be productive of much evil, resulting from the incompetency or corruptness of the umpires. In France these suits had been brought within the cognizance of the Courts so far back as the year 1856, and the same amendment was now introduced into the Colonial Law with the concurrence of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the whole commercial community.

No. 6.

"An Ordinance to give jurisdiction to the Deputy Mayor of Port Louis for the trial of Prosecutions for Contraventions against the Laws and Regulations concerning the Public Health."

As soon as the virulence of the epidemic of 1867 had somewhat diminished, and had ceased to demand exclusively the attention of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, that body proceeded to carry out more strictly than it had formerly done the laws affecting the public health of the town.

The number of sanitary contraventions which were now daily detected were so numerous that the disposal of these cases took up more than a fair share of the time of the ordinary Courts of Justice, whose other business was thereby thrown into arrear. Under these circumstances, it was resolved to establish a special unpaid tribunal for the trial of offences against the Public Health Law, by reviving, to a limited degree, the former magisterial functions of the Deputy Mayor. The fact that the gentleman who then held that office was a trained lawyer had an all-important influence on the adoption of this course: thus the Ordinance was so framed as to admit of its suspension in the event of that post being at any time held by one not duly qualified to act as a magistrate; and this actually occurred at the end of 1868. During the few months the law was in operation it contributed powerfully towards the repressing contraventions against Sanitary Regulations.

No. 12.

"An Ordinance to provide for and to secure the Repayment to the Municipal Corporation of a Loan made by that body to the Local Board of Health of Port Louis."

During the long epidemic of 1867, the Local Board of Health of Port Louis was required to incur expenses for the establishment of hospitals, the providing of burial, and other urgent sanitary works, far beyond the scope of its ordinary current expenditure, and it was thus compelled to have recourse to a loan to enable it to continue its mission throughout that fearful visitation. The necessary funds were borrowed from the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis, and amounted to 21,038*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* As this sum exceeded the limits fixed by law for loans raised for sanitary purposes, it became necessary to introduce an Ordinance to legalize the course which had been followed in this exptional case, and to provide for the repayment of the money.

No. 5.

"An Ordinance to extend the time for the Registration of certain Acts and Contracts."

During the epidemic just spoken of, many persons were prevented by sickness from registering their documents in due time in the Public Registration Office, and were thus liable to a penalty, in addition to the ordinary fees. On the other hand, the calamities which had befallen the Colony had brought about a general pecuniary embarrassment, and the result was that the tardy registration of papers was left undone, on account of the want of means to pay the extra charges. The introduction of this Ordinance to enable persons to register such documents without payment of fine was a mere act of justice.

No. 8.

"An Ordinance to amend the law for the Naturalization of Aliens."

Previous to the introduction of this law, a separate Ordinance had to be passed on each occasion of the naturalization of a foreigner, and these Acts only differed from one another in the names of the parties for whom they were made. As this formal legislation, in which no discussion could arise, nevertheless took up the time of the Council, a suggestion for the passing of a standing law on the subject, so as to avoid these private Bills, was submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, having received his approbation, was embodied in the present Ordinance.

No. 10.

"An Ordinance to authorize the raising of a Loan of 100,000*l.*, in order to refund certain advances made from the current Revenue to the railway Construction Account."

No. 14.

"An Ordinance to alter the Duties upon Colonial Spirits for Consumption."

No. 15.

"An Ordinance to alter the Duties of Customs upon Spirits."

The first of these three laws was passed to raise on loan the money required to repair the damage done by the hurricane of 12th March, 1868, to public works and buildings, and especially to the railways.

The other two Ordinances were passed to secure the sinking fund and interest of the money so borrowed.

No. 3.

"An Ordinance to amend No. 2 of 1864, concerning Quarantine in the Seychelles Islands."

When the Quarantine Law of the Seychelles Islands was amended by the Ordinance, No. 2 of 1864, the place called Flat Island of that archipelago was selected as a permanent Quarantine Station for those dependencies. In a short time, however, it became evident that the locality was not suited for the purpose for which it had been set apart; whereas another island called Ile Longue possessed all the requisites of a station.

This Ordinance was therefore introduced to substitute Ile Longue for Flat Island, for the purposes above mentioned.

No. 21.

"An Ordinance to make provision for assisting in the Erection of a Parochial Church in each of the Roman Catholic Parishes of "St. Theresa" and "The Visitation," in the District of Plaines Wilhems."

This Ordinance was passed at the request of the Roman Catholics of the district of Plaines Wilhems, to enable them to obtain by an increase of the direct taxes payable by the inhabitants belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, the necessary funds for building two parochial churches.

No. 9.

"An Ordinance to enable Nemours Arnaud, Esquire, Avoué-plaidant, to use the French Language in oral pleadings before the Superior Courts of Mauritius."

By rules based on a Royal Order in Council of 13th September, 1845, the Supreme Court had ordered that all oral pleadings should be made in the English language—except in the case of certain advocates who had been admitted to practise within a fixed period —from the date of the Capitulation of the Island. According to these rules, Mr. Nemours Arnaud was not included among the persons so excepted, as he had been admitted to the profession three or four years too late; but there were circumstances in his case which induced the Local Government to support an application made by Mr. Arnaud, in 1868, to be allowed to plead in the French language, and with the consent of the Secretary of State the present Ordinance, enabling him to do so, was introduced.

(Signed) JULES L. COLIN,
Procureur and Advocate-General.

19th October, 1869.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 5.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HARRY ST. GEORGE ORD, C.B., to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 181.)

MY LORD, Government House, Singapore, August 27, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1868. I also enclose a Report on Penang by Colonel Anson, the Lieutenant-Governor of that Settlement. The Lieutenant-Government of Malacca having been only temporarily administered during the greater part of the year and by different officers, no report has been received from that Settlement.

2. The object with which this document is compiled is to exhibit generally the past and present state of the Colony and its prospects, but I am sorry to say that the means of making a satisfactory comparison of this nature are not available.

3. In a Colony under ordinary circumstances there would be no difficulty in obtaining the information required for the purpose from the records and Blue Books of former years which would have been regularly kept, according to long-established form. But in these Settlements such records do not exist in anything like regular order, and when they are to be procured, their form is so different from that in use in the Colonial service, that they are almost useless for purposes of comparison. Moreover, owing to the peculiarity of the financial relations of the Settlement with the Supreme Government of India, it is impossible to arrive at anything like a satisfactory conclusion as to its actual financial condition at any given period.

4. A correct comparison of the state of the Settlement under Indian and Colonial administration is therefore unattainable, and it has been too short a time under Colonial rule (one year and eight months) to allow of any useful inquiry into the results which it has produced. Each succeeding year will, however, add to the amount of carefully digested facts which will allow of this comparison being made when the proper time is considered to have arrived.

5. But although the means of instituting an accurate comparison may be wanting, there is a sufficient amount of information on record regarding the past history of the Settlements to allow of their progress being traced in many important particulars, and thus to permit some conclusions to be arrived at as to their future, and this I will endeavour to set forth, following as nearly as possible the order observed in the Blue Book records.

6. The various Settlements had their origin as follows:—

7. *Malacca* was occupied by the Portuguese in 1511, and in 1641 was taken from them by the Dutch, who surrendered it to the British in 1795. It was occupied by us till 1818, when it was restored to the Netherlands Government, by whom it was again surrendered to us in exchange for Bencoolen in 1825. In 1826 it was incorporated with Singapore.

8. *Penang* was acquired by purchase from the Natives in 1786, and Province Wellesley, as the territory on the main land is called, was obtained in the same way in 1800. In 1804 the Settlement was established as a separate Government, forming the fourth Presidency of India, which continued in existence till 1826, when it was amalgamated with Malacca and Singapore under one administration.

9. *Singapore* was acquired by purchase in 1819, and in 1826 was formed into one Government with Penang and Malacca.

Taxes.

10. The taxation of Malacca, prior to 1795, appears to have been derived from import and export duties and the farming of the right to collect certain excise duties. During our occupation up to 1818, the same system of taxation prevailed and the custom duties were not abolished until 1826, or the year after its final surrender to us, when its taxation was raised by farms on opium spirits, toddy, and bhang, betel-leaf, gaming, and the privilege of killing and selling pork. In 1826, when it was incorporated with Singapore and Penang, the gambling farm was abolished, and the taxation placed on much the same footing as it now is in all the three Settlements.

11. The taxation of Penang like that of Malacca was at first raised from import and export duties with the usual excise farms, including gambling. This tax was abolished in 1811, when producing about 8,000*l.* a-year; but the import and export duties were retained until the amalgamation of the Settlements in 1826, when its taxation was assimilated to that of other Settlements.

12. There have never been any import or export duties in Singapore, and the only variation in the nature of its taxation was the abolition of the gambling farm in 1829, and the introduction in 1862 of the stamp duty, which was also extended to the other Settlements.

The revenue of the Settlements is now derived from the following sources:—

Excise duties (which are farmed out) on opium, spirits and toddy, and bhang.

Small duties (also generally farmed) on tin mining, timber cutting, brick making, granite cutting, &c.

Licences for keeping spirit-shops, public-house and pawnbrokers' establishments.

Letting the public markets. Stamp duties. Revenue from land.

There are also municipal taxes on houses and lands, horses and carriages, the revenue from which is appropriated to keeping in order the towns and the maintenance of the police.

Revenue.

For the reasons before given it is impossible to furnish any comparative statement of the revenue of the Settlements at given periods; the following facts will, however, enable some idea to be formed of the rate at which it has increased since their establishment.

13. In 1793, seven years after the formation of Penang, its revenue, derived principally from opium, spirit, and gambling farms, was about 5,000*l.* a-year. In 1802, nine years later, it reached about 15,000*l.*, one-sixth of which was due to import duties; export duties were then introduced, and the revenue rose, till in 1811 it was about 50,000*l.* per annum. With the abolition in this year of the gambling farm it gradually fell off, until in 1824, two years before its amalgamation with Singapore, it only reached about 26,000*l.* per annum. The revenue of Malacca, derived from farms, including gambling and custom duties, appears to have varied in the years from 1804 to 1815, between 10,000*l.* and 15,000*l.* per annum. It then gradually fell off, and in 1828, two years after its incorporation with Singapore, and the last year of the retention of the gambling farms, it amounted to less than 5,000*l.*

14. In the year 1820, a year after its establishment, Singapore, with a population of about 5,000, had a revenue from farms, including gambling, of nearly 4,000*l.* per annum. Four years later, the population having doubled, the revenue was about 12,000*l.*, and four years later, in 1828, with a population of about 17,000, its revenue was nearly 18,000*l.* per annum.

In the following year, 1829, the system of deriving a revenue from gambling was abolished, and the result was a serious diminution in the revenue, which in 1836 only reached about 21,000*l.*, although the population had increased in the eight years from 17,000 to nearly 30,000.

The amalgamation of the settlement was effected in 1826, and their joint revenue and population about this time and at subsequent periods is given below:—

	Population of three Settlements.	Revenue of three Settlements.
		£
1829	100,000	—
1838	150,000	36,000
1846	195,000	48,000
1856	248,000	81,000
1866	273,000	126,000
1868	273,000	199,000

It must be observed that the revenue here given is only that derived from the farms and licences previously alluded to, and does not include land revenue, nor indirect receipts of any kind, the way in which the accounts were kept rendering it impossible to ascertain these particulars with any correctness.

15. As might be expected, the increase in the receipts from the opium and spirit farms has kept pace with the augmentation of the population. But it is worthy of notice that

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the lettings since the transfer have produced a very considerable addition, which is in no way due to any large increase of population. Thus:—

The opium and spirit farms which, prior to the transfer, were let for $561,260, have since been let for $695,000, giving an increase of $133,740, or, deducting a decrease on other farms of $7,240, a total increase of $126,500, or upwards of 27,000*l.* a-year.

Expenditure.

The causes already explained render it impossible to furnish any account of the expenditure of the Settlements of former years, which would be useful for purposes of comparison with that of the present.

16. An attempt was made to supply some information of the kind, with the view of meeting certain strictures which were made on the administration of the Settlements in this respect as compared with that of the late administration. But from the peculiar way in which the accounts of the late Government were kept, it was only possible to accomplish this in part, and many items of expenditure of considerable amount had to be left altogether out of consideration. The result has, however, shown that the increase of expenditure in the administration of the Colony has only kept pace with the increase in its population, and was rendered necessary for the maintenance of such efficient establishments as are required to carry out the Colonial system of government, whilst it was fully warranted by the steady increase of revenue which has accrued without any additional taxation.

Local Revenue.

17. These consist of funds raised by the Board of Municipal Commissioners, to whom are entrusted the management of the affairs of the chief towns of the three Settlements.

18. Prior to 1839 the Government always managed the affairs of these towns, but in that year an Act was passed, vesting the control of their funds in the hands of a body composed of officials and unofficials.

19. In 1848 another Act, No. 9, was passed, which authorized the Government to nominate a Board of two officials and three unofficials at each Settlement with power to raise revenue by taxing houses and lands, horses and carriages, &c., and to appropriate the proceeds to the maintenance of the towns, and to defraying the cost of the police of the Settlements.

20. This arrangement continued till 1852, when the Government of India decided on introducing an improved system of Municipal Government into the three Presidency Towns and the Straits Settlements, and Act 25 was passed, which authorized the levying of a revenue similar to that already raised under the Act, 1848. Act 27 fixed the constitution of the Board, viz. five Members, two nominated by the Government, of whom the Resident Councillor of the Settlement was to be one, and act as President of the Board, and three unofficials elected by the general body of the rate-payers, payment of rates to the amount of Rs. 40 (about 4*l.*) per annum being the qualification for a Commissioner, and Rs. 25 for a voter. Another Act, 14, of the same year, gave extensive powers for the conservancy of the towns, but although the unofficials have a numerical superiority, their powers are carefully restricted by requiring that in almost any matter of moment they shall only take action with the authority of the Government. Thus the salaries of the officers of the Board and the rate of assessment the Commissioners are permitted to levy must be sanctioned by the Government, their accounts require a Government audit, they cannot borrow any money without the permission of Government, nor can they undertake any extensive work in connection with the improvement of the towns without the authority of the Government, which also fixes the limits within which their jurisdiction is exercised. In addition to this, as the support of the police force to such extent as the Government may require is made a first charge on their revenues, they are not at liberty to appropriate any of their funds until they shall have set aside whatever sum the Government may demand for the maintenance of the force.

21. I believe a system similar to this has been found to work well in some other Colonies, but such has not been the case here. One reason is the indisposition of private persons to take part in public affairs, and the comparatively small number who have the leisure which would enable them to do so. Again there is little, if any, inducement for the members to take an active part in the management of their affairs, and they rarely possess the professional qualifications which would alone enable them to do so with success.

22. At Penang and Malacca, where the Lieutenant-Governors, and before them the Resident Councillors of the Settlements, have taken the matter into their own hands so

as to become practically the Municipal Council, affairs have been better conducted, but at Singapore there has been a large expenditure of public money and heavy debt incurred without, it is to be feared, a corresponding return.

23. I am of opinion, and have so stated to the Legislature, that the Municipal body as at present constituted is not well qualified to undertake the duties devolved upon it, and have advised either that the whole control of its affairs should be vested in the Government, or that the duties of the Board should be restricted to their proper and natural sphere, the care of the towns alone (at present they embrace a much larger extent), and that this should be undertaken by a Municipal body elected by the rate-payers and unconnected with the Government.

Public Debt.

24. There is not strictly speaking any public debt, but the Legislature in 1867 being apprehensive that the current revenue would be insufficient to meet the cost of building a Government House and replacing with a new vessel, the unserviceable steamer 'Pluto' left by the late Administration, authorized the Governor to borrow from the deposits in the Supreme Court, and which are invested at 4 and 5 per cent., a sum not exceeding $200,000 dollars for the purpose of meeting these charges.

25. On the 31st December, 1868, a sum of $101,474 had been taken up on this account, and there is strong reason to believe that this amount will be found sufficient for the purpose, and that it will not be necessary to borrow to the whole extent authorized.

Military Expenditure.

26. By an arrangement made between the War and Colonial Departments, and approved by the Treasury, it was laid down that the Settlements should pay an annual contribution of 59,300*l.* per annum to cover the cost of the troops stationed there for local purposes. It was originally intended that these should consist of two batteries of Royal Artillery, and six companies of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, but it has been found that such a force would be altogether insufficient to furnish the ordinary guards required for the protection of the Settlements, and up to the present time no decision has been come to as to the nature or extent of the troops which are to be allotted to the Settlements in return for its large contribution. The garrison is composed, as it was before the transfer, of two regiments Madras Native Infantry, and two batteries Royal Artillery, and on the arrival of a wing of a European regiment, which it is intended shall be maintained in the settlements for Imperial purposes and at Imperial expense, it is contemplated to withdraw one of the Native Regiments.

Public Works.

27. The chief expenditure on public works during the year, and indeed since the transfer, has been for the erection of a new Government House. The Governor's residence was formerly situated on a high hill dominating the town, it was a sufficiently commodious building, but of temporary character, and it was intended to replace it with a permanent structure when the outbreak of the Mutiny in India led to the selection of the site for a fort, and the resources of the Public Works Department being necessarily devoted for some years to this and other works in connection with the defence of the place, nothing could be done towards supplying the want of a Government House.

28. In the mean time a small and incommodious private residence was hired for the use of the Governor at a rental (excluding the cost of keeping it in repair) of nearly 1000*l.* a year.

29. Shortly after the transfer the Legislature being of opinion that the existing arrangement was inconvenient, unsuitable, and very costly, and the public buildings of the Colony being complete and in very good order, decided on appropriating a sum of money for the erection of a suitable Government House. Plans of such a residence having been submitted and approved, a grant of $100,000 (about 20,000*l.*) was made for its erection, including purchase of land, laying out grounds, and furnishing. About 9,000*l.* of the amount have been laid out in the purchase of a plot of ground 80 acres in extent, and with the remainder a plain, substantial, and commodious residence is being built. It is doubtful whether the sum available after deducting the cost of the land, furniture, &c., will be sufficient for the purpose, but if the whole amount were to be expended upon it the cost would not be incommensurate either with the requirements or resources of the Colony.

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Legislative.

30. One of the principal grounds on which the inhabitants of the Settlements urged their transfer from Indian to Colonial administration was, that not being represented by any person having a knowledge of their requirements, they could not get passed such measures as were needed to improve the condition of their affairs, whilst Acts most detrimental to their interests were passed in spite of their earnest remonstrances and prayers.

31. The result has fully justified their expectation, most of the measures which the late Government had been desirous to see passed have become law, and many others have been added to the statute book, the necessity for which, relating as they did to matters materially affecting the public health, safety, or convenience, is so obvious, that it is difficult to understand how the Settlements can have been so long permitted to remain unprovided with them. Amongst them may be enumerated Acts and Ordinances relating to quarantine, vaccination, prisons, the preservation of the peace, pilots, and the protection of revenue.

Population.

32. There is some reason to doubt whether great reliance can be placed upon the returns of population which are stated to have been obtained at the last census taken in 1860, but it is my intention to cause a census to be taken at the regular English decennial period 1871, when every precaution will be used to ensure accuracy in the returns.

Imports and Exports.

33. The returns of Imports and Exports, though they do not go back to the earliest date, and contain some omissions, have been kept with much regularity, and supply a great deal of information respecting the trade of the Settlements.

34. The trade of Penang appears to have amounted in 1810 to about 1,100,000*l.*, and 15 years later it was still about the same amount, having varied in this period between 760,000*l.*, and 1,350,000*l.*

35. There are no records accessible respecting the trade of Singapore until 1823–4, when it amounted to rather more than 2,500,000*l.*

36. Malacca had in 1825–6 a trade of 245,000*l.*

37. The year 1825–6 being the first for which complete records of the imports and exports of all the Settlements are procurable, I have compiled a return showing what the trade has been at each of them at periods of ten years (nearly) up to 1855–6, and thence for every year up to the present.

RETURN showing the TOTAL of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of each SETTLEMENT, and also that of the THREE SETTLEMENTS, at periodical intervals since 1825.

Years.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1825–6	2,610,440	1,114,614	318,426	4,043,480
1833–4	4,067,651	1,139,984	175,479	5,383,114
1845–6	5,252,099	1,542,161	252,654	7,046,914
1855–6	9,571,396	2,531,770	634,132	12,737,298
1859–60	10,471,396	3,530,000	920,227	14,921,528
1860–61	10,000,562	3,072,674	710,265	13,783,501
1861–62	10,534,063	3,725,108	804,784	15,063,955
1862–63	12,017,293	4,076,708	812,495	16,906,496
1863–64	11,744,749	4,287,292	813,886	16,845,927
1864–65	13,252,175	4,496,205	821,698	18,570,078
1865–66	14,492,470	4,304,938	826,873	19,624,281
1868	12,378,319	3,801,309	844,453	17,024,081

38. The extremely rapid progress of Singapore, especially during the first 40 years of its existence, that is to say up to 1859, is the most noticeable feature in the return; since then it has hardly maintained the same steady advance, though in 1865–6 it reached the large amount of 14½ millions. 1867 was of course an unexceptionally bad year, but the return for 1868 shows a considerable rally, being over 12,300,000*l.*

39. In Penang the advance has been far less, but of late years it has been in proportion more than that of Singapore, and has gone on at a steadier rate. Thus the

imports and exports of the two Settlements, which in 1855–56 were respectively 9,571,396*l.* and 2,531,770*l.*, were in 1865–66 14,492,470*l.* and 4,304,938*l.*, showing an increase of about 51 per cent. for Singapore and of 70 per cent. for Penang; moreover, the trade of Penang during these ten years was more steady and continuous than that of Singapore. The falling off in the present year has been considerable in both Settlements, but has been larger in proportion in Singapore.

40. There is also this marked difference in the trade of the Settlements, that Singapore exports nothing of its own production, except a small quantity of sago and coir fibre worth about 40,000*l.*, whilst Penang ships produce of its own manufacture, sugar, sago, tapioca, &c., to the value of nearly half a million. Whilst, therefore, Singapore imports annually to the value of 6,710,000*l.* and exports but 5,677,000*l.*, Penang imports 1,755,000*l.* and exports 2,085,280*l.*

41. Although it is not to be expected that the latter settlement will ever approach Singapore in the magnitude of its trade, there is good reason to believe that it will continue to develop itself. There is a steady increase in its cultivation, and with the removal of those difficulties which have hitherto hampered its trade with the neighbouring island of Sumatra a large addition should be made to its commerce.

42. The trade of Malacca, though small in amount, shows a steady annual increase. In the year 1859–60 it would appear to have been larger than at any subsequent period, but on examination this proves to have been due to exceptional causes not likely to occur again.

Shipping.

43. The arrivals and departures of shipping have naturally been in proportion to the trade of the three Settlements. At Singapore there has been a falling off in both, and at Penang an increase. Malacca has remained much the same.

Lands, &c.

44. At Malacca and Penang cultivation progresses steadily, though it is somewhat impeded by the difficulty experienced in getting the land surveyed. Arrangements are, however, being made for increasing the surveying establishments and placing them on a more efficient footing, and there is every reason to hope that no further inconvenience will be experienced from this cause.

45. A great part of the island of Singapore was formerly in gambier cultivation, but its extremely exhaustive character, and the destruction of the wood which is necessary to the manufacture of this article, have caused its cultivation to be almost entirely abandoned by the Chinese, who were the chief planters of it, and who are now opening up extensively fresh ground on the mainland, and especially up the rivers and creeks in Johore.

Mines.

46. Tin mining was formerly carried on to some extent in Malacca, and the tenths to which the Government is entitled, and which are farmed out to Chinese, have realized as much as 5,000*l.* a-year; but as the operation is confined to surface washing, and the greater part of what was readily accessible in this way has now been collected, the practice has been almost entirely abandoned.

47. There are large quantities of tin, and probably of other metals, in different parts of the Peninsula; and European merchants have on several occasions entered into agreements with native Rajahs for working their mines in a proper manner, but those arrangements have constantly fallen through from bad faith on the part of the Natives; so that although if the engagements were to be faithfully kept there would be the certainty of large profits to both parties, the risk is too great to encourage a repetition of the experiments.

General Observations.

48. Notwithstanding the short time that has elapsed since the Settlements were transferred from Indian to Colonial rule, and the small amount of information which has been available for the formation of a comparison between the two systems of Government, not only have attempts been made to institute such comparisons, but it has been inferred from them that the present administration is conducted with less regard to the public interests and at greater cost than that of the former Government.

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49. In support of the first charge it has been alleged that some of the measures which the Legislature has passed, such as those relating to quarantine, pilotage, and passenger ships, were calculated to interfere with the trade of the Settlements, and were therefore prejudicial to its interests.

50. Now it is not to be denied that in the course of administering these laws it may happen that loss or inconvenience are occasioned to individuals; but to object to them on these grounds as injurious to the interests of the Settlements, ignoring altogether their great importance to the health, safety, and convenience of the public at large, is to take a very narrow and erroneous view of what constitutes the true interests of a community.

51. So with regard to the charge that the Government of the Colony under Colonial rule is more costly than it was under that of India. The statement may or may not be correct, but, if it be established, it by no means follows that the present Government is therefore, as has been alleged, extravagant. The Indian system was worked with a very small staff, and the Colonial system requires a large one, but if the result is to produce greater efficiency in the administration of its affairs, and the Colony is able to support the increased charge without adding to the burden of the people, the course adopted by the Government is at once justified.

52. There appears to be good grounds for believing that most of the objections which have been taken to the action of the local Government since the transfer, have had their origin in an apprehension that it may eventually involve the necessity for additional taxation.

53. As far as can be foreseen, there is not the slightest reason to anticipate such a result. One of the principal arguments advanced in favour of the transfer by its promoters, the merchants of Singapore, was the elasticity of its financial resources, which they showed to exceed those of the greater majority of Her Majesty's Colonies, there being hardly one year since its establishment in which the revenue had not exceeded that of its predecessor.

54. The experience of the last few years goes far to confirm this view and to strengthen the probability that the revenue of the Settlements in future, administered as it now is, will be sufficient to meet all its wants.

55. At the same time, it must not be overlooked that the greater part of the revenue of the Colony is contributed by the Native community, and that if any cause, not now to be foreseen, should lead to an extensive withdrawal of the Natives, especially of the Chinese part of the population, such a falling off in the revenue would ensue as to render imperative additional taxation. In such a case it would be necessary to fall back on the European community, and to require them to assume that share of the fiscal burden of the Settlements from which they have been hitherto exempt.

56. A very slight inquiry into the nature and sources of the Colonial revenue will show the justice and propriety of such a course if circumstances should render it necessary.

57. The revenue of the Colony in round numbers for the past years was 260,000*l.*, deducting from this everything in the nature of reimbursements, about 33,000*l.*, we have a net revenue derived from direct sources of 227,000*l.*, raised in the following manner:—

	£
From opium and spirits, toddy, and pawnbroking -	150,000
From stamps - - - - - -	30,000
From the Municipalities in aid of cost of police -	20,000
From land, &c. - - - - - -	17,000
From fees and fines and port dues - - -	10,000
Total - - - - -	£227,000

58. Of this revenue a very small proportion, probably not one-tenth, is contributed by the European community, who from their wealth and position in the country claim to be considered the representatives of its interests. Taking the first head, the Excise duties, with the exception of a tax of 6*d.* per bottle on the spirits they consume, which represents an amount too trifling to be taken account of, they do not furnish any portion of the 150,000*l.* it includes. The Stamp duty is a tax on the business transactions of the whole Colony, and is paid by all engaged in them, whether European or Native, resident or not. The Native is almost exclusively the buyer of land, and the revenue received on this account is therefore supplied by him, as is the greater part of the payment made on account of fines and fees.

59. There remain then only the Municipal taxes, consisting of a rate on houses and land, and a small duty on horses and carriages, and of these the European certainly does contribute his share, though it is trifling in the extreme. For instance, taking as fair examples the leading partners or managers of the twelve largest European firms in Singapore, I find that the greatest amount of assessed taxes paid by any one of these gentlemen is 28*l.*, and the lowest 10*l.* 10*s.*, the average being 17*l.* a-year, and this, with the addition of a payment of 6*d.* per bottle on such spirits as he may consume, constitutes the whole contribution which a merchant doing business to the extent of hundreds of thousands of pounds is required to make towards the revenue of the Colony.

60. Whilst the Native pays taxes on what are to him almost necessaries, the European receives not only his necessaries but even his luxuries free of all charge. His food, his clothing, his supplies of every kind, everything he requires or uses in his house or business comes to him untaxed, all that is required of him is that if he resides in a house of his own he shall pay annually 10 per cent. on its rental and about 50*s.* for every horse and carriage that he may choose to keep.

61. So long as the finances of the Settlement maintain their present satisfactory position, it is not necessary to modify a system which, although it can hardly be defended as just to the Native, is not complained of by him, and does not in reality press with undue hardship on him, but if circumstances should alter in the manner I have suggested, and it becomes necessary to devise means for increasing the revenue, it is clear that the European could not complain if the result were to place him on somewhat more of an equality with the Native in respect to taxation by levying reasonable duties on wines, cigars, and similar articles of luxury which he now consumes untaxed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 146.)

Lieutenant Governor's Office,
Prince of Wales Island, 1st March, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1868, accompanied with my Report thereon.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Singapore.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF PENANG FOR 1869.

Revenue.

1. The revenue of the year 1867 was collected by the Colonial Government for only nine months.

2. The return in the Blue Book for that year is therefore the actual collection for the nine months, with an amount added for the first quarter, based on the average of those nine months.

3. Comparing the revenue thus calculated with that of last year, there appears a sum of 10,927*l.* in favour of 1868.

4. A considerable increase is shown in the item of stamps, but this is mainly due to the collection of Court fees by means of stamps, instead of by direct payments.

5. The re-letting of the opium farm, consequent upon the coming into operation of the new Excise Ordinance in August last, caused a loss during the year of 371*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, the farm having been let on the 1st of that month for 1,593*l.* 15*s.*, the previous rent having been 1,668*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per month.

6. There is no doubt that when the farm was let on the 1st May, 1867, the price bid for it was too high to be remunerative to the purchaser of the lease, and that it only reached that price owing to the gambling propensities of the Chinese having induced them at the auction to bid more than its real value. This gambling was prevented when the farm was re-let in August, by calling for tenders instead of putting it up to auction, and I consider that a fair price was obtained for it.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

7. In consequence of losing his lease on the re-letting of the farm, the late farmer refused to pay nearly two months' rent that was due from him, and it was only after sueing him in the Supreme Court that this amount, 2,502*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, was recovered, but as judgment in the case was given and the money paid in January of this year (1869), the revenue of 1868 is reduced by that amount.

8. There appears a reduction in the item of "fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court." This is attributable to the fees having been, as already stated, paid by means of stamps.

9. The excess of revenue over expenditure is shown as 12,953*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, but a portion of the share of the military contribution of the Settlement is not included in the expenditure. Had this been included, and had the debt of the farmer been paid during the year, there would have appeared an excess of revenue over expenditure of 2,123*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

Local Revenues.

10. The revenue of the Municipality of the Settlement is shown as 16,362*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, which is an increase of 2,264*l.* 16*s.* 11¾*d.* over that of the previous year. This increase is principally due to the re-assessment of houses in George Town, to an increase in rents from new buildings, &c., and an increase in the fines and fees of the Magistrates' Courts.

11. The Municipality has a debt of 9,668*l.* 14*s.* 11¼*d.*, of which 7,373*l.* 15*s.* was borrowed for the new waterworks, and the remainder, some years ago, for constructing a market and for other purposes. The latter part of the debt is being gradually liquidated, as the bonds become due.

12. The sum of 203*l.* 13*s.* 6¾*d.* was expended in constructing two bathing-houses for the use of the public, one of which was let for 23*9l.* 14*s.*, and the other for 229*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

13. An extension of the market accommodation was made at a cost of 450*l.*, and in consequence an increased rent of 132*l.* 12*s.* was obtained for it.

14. A large increase was made in the outlay on roads in the Island.

Public Works.

15. Considerable improvement in the accommodation, convenience, and appearance of the public offices has taken place. The building containing them is substantial, but its appearance still suggests the purpose for which it was originally constructed, namely, that of warehousing the stock in trade of the old East India Company.

16. A new bridge, over the river Jooroo on the main line of road leading to the south of Province Wellesley, has been completed.

17. Three new police stations, one in Prince of Wales Island and two in Province Wellesley, have been constructed. These stations have been built of more solid materials than usual, so as to give protection to the police in cases of gang robbery or of riot. This has entailed a larger outlay upon them.

18. 43 miles of road in Province Wellesley have been repaired, and 6 miles have been macadamized for the first time.

19. Many of the roads in Province Wellesley have for their foundations only either loose sand or mud, and are very little, if at all, above high-water level; consequently, at the time of the spring tides, during the heavy rains in the wet season, they are more or less under water, and where there is any heavy traffic over them they become almost impassable. The only way to improve them is to raise, and then to macadamize them. This will entail a heavy outlay, but it is being gradually carried out.

20. The authority of the Municipality extends over the whole Settlement, not being confined to the town, or to any particular district; the works, &c., under its superintendence, such as the roads and bridges in Prince of Wales Island and the ferries in Province Wellesley, must therefore be properly considered public works. Improved ferry-boats have been placed at two of these ferries, and an improvement has taken place in the condition of the roads in the Island.

Legislation.

21. The Legislative Council sat twice (on the 19th and 20th of December) in the Settlement, and passed a local Ordinance, viz. the Penang Water-rate Ordinance, No. XX. of 1868.

Municipal Corporation.

22. The Municipal Electors failed this year in their election of a Commissioner for 1869. A gentleman was elected by a very small number of the electors without his consent having been previously obtained, and upon being elected he declined to act.

23. It was thus thrown on the Government to appoint a Commissioner from the list of persons qualified to be elected. This and the result of the previous year's election show a great want of interest on the part of the public in their Municipal institution, and how little they really value the power of electing the unofficial Commissioners.

24. It is singularly inconsistent with the strong objection, raised some time ago, against placing the Municipality entirely, instead of as at present partially (the Lieutenant-Governor being the President, and there being one other Commissioner out of the five who is a Government officer appointed by the Governor), under the superintendence of Government officers.

Civil Establishment.

25. There is an increase under this head, which is in some measure due to the commutation of fees received by certain public officers for increased rates of salaries.

26. There is also an increase in the cost of the Police department. It was found necessary to appoint a European Serjeant to take charge of the Marine branch, and also a Forest Ranger to look after the Government lands and forests.

27. A further increase in the cost of this department must be anticipated, as men of a better class are required for it, and they can only be obtained by augmenting the rates of pay.

28. The number of men will also have to be increased, as more waste land in the province is taken into cultivation, and as the population increases by immigration from the native states of the Peninsula, as well as from China, India, Java, and other neighbouring countries.

Ecclesiastical.

29. The only change in this establishment has been the replacing of the late Chaplain in the service of the Indian Government, by the newly appointed Colonial Chaplain.

Education.

30. It appears that education is retrograding rather than progressing. The free school, the principal school in the Settlement, which receives a grant in aid from Government of 225*l.* per annum, shows a reduction in the number of its pupils.

31. In 1867, there were on its books 228 pupils; in 1868, 217 pupils. Out of these numbers, there were in daily attendance, in 1867, 164 pupils; in 1868, 158 pupils.

32. The Government school, at Pennatang Pow, has been closed during the year, in consequence of no attendance on the part of the pupils.

33. The school of the Plymouth Brethren, which returned in the Blue Book of 1867 the number of its pupils as 80, has been abandoned.

34. A small school of about 35 pupils has been established under the direction of the Chaplain, and appears to be making progress, but the funds appropriated to it are too limited to give much hope of its extension.

Imports and Exports.

35. A decrease has taken place in both Imports and Exports, as compared with the year 1867.

The imports for 1868 were - -	$8,259,038
„ 1867 „ - -	8,523,733
Decrease -	$264,695
The exports for 1868 were - -	$9,629,475
„ 1867 „ - -	12,034,805
Decrease -	$2,405,330

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

36. The principal articles of import in which a decrease has taken place, are:—

India Rubber	$17,613	Gutta Percha	$5,965
Piece Goods	162,924	Betel Nut	109,883
Rattans and Canes	13,462	Camphor	27,555
Malt Liquors	14,117	Sugar	4,752
Specie	135,303		

37. The articles of export in which a decrease has taken place, are:—

Beche-de-Mere	$7,570	India Rubber	$42,775
Benjamin	66,257	Nutmegs	74,223
Birds' Nests	731	Opium, Benares	205,852
Birds' Feathers	3,650	Piece Goods	229,987
Betel Nut	273,971	Porcelain and Earthenware	14,663
Camphor	44,018	Rice	147,293
Cocoa Nut	23,301	Stationery	3,120
Cocoa Nut Oil	7,048	Sugar Candy	2,191
Cotton Wool	7,432	Sugar	15,579
Fireworks	5,428	Tea	3,247
Gold Thread and Lace	667	Tin	626,710
Gutta Percha	14,625	Umbrellas	3,070
Horns	1,313	Miscellaneous, all Countries	1,634,137
Horses and Ponies	8,579		

38. An increase in the imports has taken place in the following articles:—

Pepper	$136,576	Rice	$182,034
Hides	41,945	Tin	30,212
Opium	307,392	Fishmaws	49,547
Guano	8,189	Cutch	28,465

39. An increase has taken place in the exports of the following articles:—

Arms and Ammunition	$33,071	Peas	$1,737
Arsenic	5,406	Paper, gilt and coloured	32,585
Bark, Mangrove	16,332	Pepper	179,252
Beeswax	9,153	Pigs and Poultry	6,157
Bullocks	3,931	Provisions (salt)	2,510
Cloves	7,141	Ditto (fresh)	2,237
Copra	17,132	Putch Leaf	3,709
Cutch	26,279	Rattans and Canes	2,684
Curry Stuff	6,112	Rum	28,888
Dholl and Gram	8,089	Salt	1,043
Essential Oil	10,787	Seeds, assorted	13,514
Fishmaws	26,403	Serpentine Stones	14,902
Flour	4,230	Shark Fins and Skate Skins	15,974
Gunnies and Gunny Bags	21,900	Silk Piece Goods	6,819
Hardware	13,780	Silk (raw)	33,721
Hides	43,410	Specie	211,810
Jewellery	8,547	Tapioca	84,694
Lac Stic	295	Thread	1,505
Lead, Pig	7,062	Timber and Plank	28,658
Mace	5,106	Tobacco	56,554
Mats	4,240	Twist and Yarn	30,556
Opium, Turkey	24,192		

40. The increase in the imports was with the following places:—

Calcutta	$194,000	Ceylon	$18,000
Malayan States	128,000	Arabia	71,000

The decrease was with the following places:—

United Kingdom	$180,000	British Burmah	$167,000
Madras	48,000	Singapore and Malacca	92,000

41. The increase in the exports was with the following places:—

China	$125,000	Malayan Peninsula	$24,000
Hongkong	106,000		

The decrease in the exports was with the following places:—

United Kingdom	$165,000	Ceylon	$42,000
Calcutta	194,000	Arabia	19,000
Madras	150,000	British Burmah	284,000
Singapore	360,000	Sumatra	857,199

42. There was a great stagnation of trade throughout the East during 1867, but it is believed that trade would have considerably revived in this Settlement during 1868, but for two causes, viz. the riots of the previous year, and the cessation of the Peninsular and Oriental mail-steamers calling at this port. The riots were not only the cause of a great destruction of property, but they also caused an unsettled state of feeling to exist amongst the principal traders, which did not subside until some time after the commencement of the year 1868.

Shipping.

43. There has been a falling off in the amount of shipping in proportion to the reduction of imports and exports. The greater reduction has been in the number and tonnage of vessels entered inwards.

The number of vessels entered inwards shows a decrease of 73, and the decrease in tonnage inwards was 58,696 tons.

The number of vessels that cleared outwards shows an increase of 4, but the tonnage of vessels outwards shows a decrease of 42,133 tons.

44. More attention has been paid during the year to obtaining the number and tonnage of the smaller craft, which carry on the trade with the neighbouring Native States.

45. Six more steamers called at this port than during 1867, but the tonnage of steamers was less by 75,946 tons. This may, in a great measure, be accounted for by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's mail-steamers ceasing to call here between the 11th March and the 28th September.

46. Two local steamers were started during the year to run between Penang, Singapore, and Malacca, one of these was of 248 tons, and the other of 120 tons burden.

47. A small steamer of 23 tons and 12-horse power was also started to keep up a communication between this island and the southern part of Province Wellesley, but as yet, owing to defect of construction, it has not been very successful.

48. Nine new beacons have been placed in the southern channel, leading to the harbour, in positions recommended by Captain Reed, of H.M. surveying vessel 'Rifleman.'

Agriculture.

49. A large tapioca estate has been recently sold to a Company in England, and I understand it is intended to commence upon it the cultivation of some new descriptions of crops, which have not hitherto been attempted in the Settlement. The plantation of the indian-rubber tree is mentioned as one of them. Tapioca has been very successful, but it is said entirely to exhaust the soil in five years.

50. A new disease has appeared in the canes, which, commencing at the roots of the plants, makes itself first apparent by the withering of the points of the leaves.

51. The season has been favourable to the early planter of paddy, but too much rain during a prolonged wet season has spoiled a great deal of that which was planted late, partly by causing it to run to straw with little ear, and partly by engendering a disease in it.

Administration of Justice.

52. In the Penang division of the Supreme Court in its civil jurisdiction, in which all actions above $50 are cognizable, there were 220 actions and suits filed in 1868, the average value of the claims in each case amounting to $210. The court also granted 207 letters of administration and probates of wills. The average value of the estates amounting to $123. There were two cases of insolvency, in the one the liabilities were $5,260 with $728 assets; in the other the liabilities were $2,302 75 c., with assets to about half that amount.

53. Sixty-nine persons were convicted of offences at the Assizes in 1868, thus comparing favourably with the returns for 1867, which show 91 convictions.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

54. The convictions of 1867 were, however, unusually large, as about one-fourth of them arose out of crimes committed during the riots, which occurred in August of that year, there being no less than 17 cases of arson committed in that month, while none occurred last year. The convictions before the Supreme Court were as follow:—

	No.
Burglary and larceny	16
Attempt to commit burglary	4
Housebreaking and larceny	5
Robbery with violence	2
Larceny from the person	4
Larceny from a boat	3
Obtaining money under false pretences	1
Receiving stolen property	5
Murder	12
Manslaughter	2
Cutting and wounding	5
Perjury	9
Conspiracy and kidnapping a female, and carrying her off to one of the Native States	1
	69

Gaols and Prisons.

55. The number of transmarine convicts is decreasing.

There were on 31st December:—

	Males.	Females.
1867	708	71
1868	643	69

There were received during the years

	Males.	Females.
1867	99	1
1868	3	3

56. The number of persons imprisoned in the House of Correction was, during

	Males.	Females.
1867	750	4
1868	908	6

57. In the Colonial gaol under the charge of the Sheriff, there were confined during the years

		Males.	Females.
1867	Debtors	194	7
1868	ditto	200	8
1867	Criminals for trial	139	3
1868	ditto	111	2

Crime.

58. There has been considerably less crime during the year 1868 than there was during 1867. This is mainly owing to the increased amount of crime which preceded the outbreak of the riots of 1867, and which principally consisted of murders and cases of severe cutting and wounding with intent to murder.

59. The Commissioner of Police reports that the town has not for years past been so quiet as it was during the year 1868.

60. Gang robberies were also less frequent than they had been during previous years. These robberies are generally perpetrated by gangs of Chinese or Malays, who come at night overland or in boats, from one of the neighbouring Native States, and pillage and burn houses, and sometimes villages, attacking or resisting the police with fire-arms and other weapons. Only six of such robberies occurred during the year, four of which took place in Province Wellesley, and two in Prince of Wales Island.

Charitable Institutions.

61. The daily average of sick in the two hospitals of Prince of Wales Island and Province Wellesley, was 58·36, and the percentage of deaths to the number treated was 9·93. The pricipal diseases were:—

	No. admitted.	Died.
Continued fever - -	100	0
Intermittent ditto - -	69	0
Dropsy - - - -	24	13
Dysentery - - -	19	7
Consumption - - -	11	4
Small pox - - -	9	1

62. Dropsy and dysentery appear to have been the most fatal, but this is accounted for by the patients having only gone to hospital in the last stage of their diseases, when little or nothing could be done for them.

63. One hundred and fifty-four persons, principally Chinese and Klings, were treated for ulcers, the chief cause of which is the uncleanly diet of the former, and the poorness of the diet of the latter.

64. There were 45 admissions to hospital of persons in a starving state, and suffering from no disease, of whom 15 died. This points to the necessity of some Government supervision of the poor. As I remarked in my last Report, the efforts of the Anti-Mendicity Society are in this respect inadequate to the requirements of the Settlement.

65. One hundred and sixty-seven cases of accident, some of a very severe nature, were taken to hospital, principally by the police, of these 12 were fatal.

General Remarks.

66. It is very satisfactory to be able to remark upon the peaceful condition of the Settlement during the year. The labouring and artisan population readily found employment. Many new buildings were constructed, and repairs, alterations, and additions to houses in town were continually being made. As such works are usually suspended when any suspicion of disturbance exists, this may be taken as a guarantee for a continuance of the present peace.

67. The sanitary condition of the Settlement was also very satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON, Lieutenant-Governor.

Certified Copy.

R. MACPHERSON, Colonel,
Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements.

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